

June 2007

## **K-12/Technology Discussion Panels**

### **Programs to Improve School Performance**

In past Strategic Master Plans, the Board has outlined proposals and processes to help K-12 students master the subjects needed to participate successfully in higher education. Past plans have called for strong, new links between postsecondary and secondary institutions. In 2006, the Governor's Washington Learns report also outlined a set of initiatives to encourage greater collaboration among higher education institutions and the public schools.

The 2008 Strategic Master Plan update will build on this foundation as it more clearly identifies the demographic challenges faced by our state and makes additional recommendations for improvement.

Many more students from under-represented groups are moving through our public schools and will need to participate and succeed in higher education in the next decade and beyond. These students already are benefiting from programs such as the State Board of Education's Meaningful High School Diploma Project. However, much more will need to be done to engage students about the need to prepare for college earlier, to motivate, prepare and support them throughout middle and high school to succeed.

Paul Rosier, Executive Director, Washington Association of School Administrators, will address what school districts are doing to prepare significantly more students to be ready for college with specific emphasis on the work being done to better prepare low-income students.

Kathe Taylor, Policy Director, Washington State Board of Education, will provide an overview of the Meaningful High School Diploma initiative and the guiding policy questions the Board is considering.

### **Technology Changing Higher Education**

No longer simply a distance learning convention, technology is changing the way higher education carries out all aspects of its mission. New approaches to classroom instruction, new ways of sharing information, improved research capability, innovative virtual classrooms, cutting-edge libraries and many other developments are helping shape a new future for higher education. Technology experts will discuss the implications of this change for the future of higher education.

The technology discussion will include information on new teaching and learning platforms, such as the virtual teaching island established on the Internet site Second Life. This teaching island offers colleges and universities the opportunity to create virtual teaching sites that can access a wide range of media and information tools, including research materials and virtual environments such as a complete virtual rendition of ancient Rome. John Bourne, one of the nation's foremost experts in online learning and artificial intelligence will join the meeting by phone and 'virtually' through the Second Life site.

The University of Washington Bothell has made extensive use of new learning technologies in developing its campus. Andreas Brockhaus, manager of learning technologies, will provide an overview of the types of technology being used to advance teaching and learning. He also will 'join' John Bourne on the Second Life Web site for a tour of virtual learning environments.

Jean Floten, President, Bellevue Community College, recently served as chair of the executive committee of the Center for Information Services (CIS). The CIS is a public entity responsible for providing information technology support services to Washington's community and technical colleges and to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

Muriel Oaks, Dean, Center for Distance and Professional Education, WSU will present on the broader role of online learning in preparing our graduates with skills for the 21st century.