

Report on States Institute on International Education

Washington, DC November 20-22, 2002

Quotes

I have worked on many different aspects of school improvement and am gratified to see the progress we are making. But, I am convinced that in all of this work we have neglected a critical emerging issue, one that is a huge challenge facing our country as we look into the future; we have not taught our students about the more than 90% of the world that lies outside our borders.

- James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Former Governor of North Carolina and Co-chair of the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools

[O]n September 11, 2001, the world changed. And our role in it changed. No longer can we afford to focus only on the domestic. Our view must turn more outward toward the world, nurturing relationships with other countries and improving international studies in our schools. ...

Clearly, to meet our goal of no child [left] behind, we must shift our focus from current practice and encourage programs that introduce students to international studies earlier in their education, starting in Kindergarten,

- Roderick Paige, US Secretary of Education

The National Campaign's mission is to expand our nation's investments in international studies by stimulating teaching and learning about world history, languages, cultures and current affairs in every school in America.

- InternationalEd.org

Washington State was one of 22 states to attend the first-time forum on International Education in the Schools, held in Washington, DC November 20-22, 2002. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Governor Gary Locke sent a State Team consisting of:

- [Dr. Cynthia Rekdal](#), Executive Director of the Washington State Association for Multicultural Education (WSAME)
- [Toshi Moriguchi](#), CFO of Uwajimaya in Seattle
- [William Linser](#), teacher at Robinswood High School in Bellevue School District
- [Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki](#), representing the John Stanford International School in Seattle

The States Institute was sponsored by the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools, in collaboration with:

- The Asia Society
- The Council of Chief State School Officials
- Education Commission of the States
- National Governors Association

Overview of the Institute

The conference was designed to inform, engage, and motivate participants to take action in their own states. Specific break-out sessions covered these topics:

- The Role of International Study and Exchange
- Using Technology to Create School-to-School Linkages in Student Programs
- Creating Internationally-Themed Secondary Schools
- Expanding World Languages
- Teacher Preparation and Professional Development
- Creating Higher Education and School Partnerships to Promote International Knowledge
- Financing International Education Policies & Programs

International Knowledge & Skills Gap

The Institute highlighted the gap between what students currently know and what they need to know to thrive in a truly global society. To bridge this gap, they recommended that states:

- Establish Priority in Policy
- Increase Teacher Knowledge
- Expand World Languages
- Build International Partnerships
- Mobilize Leaders and Resources

Washington State Perspective

The Washington State Team brought home several key messages for our state:

Integrate International Ed

International Education is not an "add on," but, rather, must be integrated into all aspects of Social Studies and other school subjects, starting in elementary school. In addition, efforts to include International Education must connect with current efforts to raise standards and hold schools and students accountable.

World Languages are Crucial

Developing citizens who can communicate in languages other than English is crucial to our country's economic and environmental future, as well as homeland security. To be successful, language study needs to begin earlier and be sustained longer.

Think P-20

International Education must span pre-school through Higher Ed. This will take a coordinated effort and a willingness to tear down traditional barriers between K-12 and Higher Ed.

Resources Exist

Most states, including Washington, already have many International Education resources, but they need to be better advertised and shared. In addition, there are grants available from a number of foundations and organizations, as well as government agencies, ready to promote this agenda.