

Report on States Institute on International Education

Washington, DC November 15-17, 2004 by Washington State Team
The Common Goals of International, Social Studies, and Multicultural Education

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

[Asia Society](#) (organizer)
[National Governors Association](#)
[Council of Chief State School Officers](#)
[Education Commission of the States](#)
[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)
[National Association of State Boards of Education](#)
[National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools](#)

Quotes of interest

Don't we undercut the case for multicultural respect in our nation when we fail to make the case for a broader cosmopolitan respect?
- Walter Parker,
University of Washington

We need to help students function in a global environment.
- State Representative Sharon Tomiko-Santos
(paraphrased remarks)

From November 15-17, 2004, a four-person team from Washington State convened in our nation's capital to be a part of an international education conference sponsored by the Asia Society. The team was made up by:

- **Michele Anciaux Aoki**, Director of Educational Programs for the World Affairs Council, Seattle,
- **David Woodward**, President of Associates in Cultural Exchange,
- **Denny Hurtado**, Indian Education Program Supervisor for the State Superintendent's Office, and
- **Caleb Perkins**, Social Studies/International Education Program Supervisor also for the State Superintendent's Office

For three days, we heard from experts and various high-level officials and met with our counterparts from around the country to determine how to ensure that schools are providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in an interconnected world. Moreover, during this time, we were able to find links across the various aspects of international education and to build bridges between international education, social studies, and multicultural education.

The expertise of this team represented the multiple goals of international education: Michele with her doctorate in Slavic Linguistics, David with his decades of experience with exchange programs, Denny with his leadership role in the state's Indian Education program and Multi-Ethnic Think Tank, and Caleb with his job as state supervisor for social studies and international education. Consequently, this opportunity to meet along with various presentations sparked several productive conversations and led us to realize our shared goals and the common steps we are able to take.

Common Inspiration

Several of the presentations left lasting impressions on each of us and informed our discussions about what actions are possible within Washington. Presentations on the importance of world languages from Congressman Holt from New Jersey and Under Secretary of Defense Chu, for example, underscored the need for all students to have opportunities to learn second and third languages during their K-12 careers. In addition, teachers and administrators from internationally-themed schools along with a representative from the Gates Foundation revealed how infusing global perspectives across a school's curriculum can help all students achieve. Finally, comments on international education at our own P-20 International Education Summit in Olympia on October 27 from Walter Parker, Education Professor from the University of Washington, guided our planning. In particular, his point about how we may "undercut the case for multicultural respect in our nation when we fail to make the case for a broader cosmopolitan respect" helped us to see the ways in which those advocating for multicultural education and those promoting international education can and should work together.

Common Goals

Conversations within the team revealed a common commitment to helping students gain an understanding of their world through access to culturally relevant, sensitive, and inclusive materials, language and exchange programs, and well-trained teachers who possess both cultural and intercultural competency. In sum, our common goal is to prepare *all* students for an *interconnected* world: each of us stressing both "all" and "interconnected" when making this joint declaration.

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Specific Steps

To help meet this ambitious, important goal, we agreed to explore several steps including:

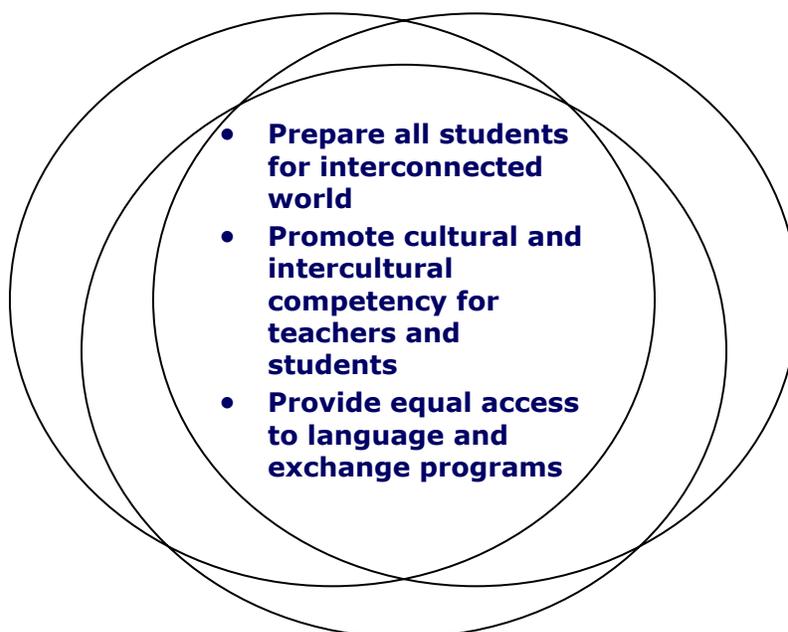
- Collaborating in preparation for testimony to the House State Education Committee, which met on December 1st to discuss a bill related to the role of cultural competency in helping all students achieve.
- Coordinating a joint meeting of the Washington State International Education Coalition and the Multi-Ethnic Think Tank to discuss common goals and strategies.
- Promoting models of integration so that multicultural and international perspectives are included throughout the K-12 curriculum.
- Pursuing federal dollars to support language and exchange programs and to expand student access to these opportunities.
- Examining ways in which the state can provide guidelines on how districts may offer course credit for students who have developed language proficiency outside of school.
- Exploring the possibility of adopting voluntary standards for world language instruction in Washington State based on the National Standards for Foreign Language.
- Inviting policymakers to visit successful international schools already in existence in Washington State.

We hope you will join us in realizing our common goals!

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International Education

Multicultural Education



Social Studies Education