

Report on States Institute on International Education Washington, DC December 7-9, 2005 by Washington State Team

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Quotes of interest

Just as the race to the moon galvanized an earlier generation – the “education race” must mobilize us to meet the demands of the 21st century. In a global economy, our students need to be prepared with world languages and culture. We need to do better at teaching the high demand languages that are increasingly important in the new world like Chinese and Arabic.

- Governor Jon Corzine,
New Jersey

Quoted in [States Prepare for the Global Age](#)

We can't starve our education system. We have to have the energy and courage to nurture it, by committing more resources to a rigorous curriculum for all students in world languages and cultures, as well as math, science, and technology.

- Gaston Caperton,
President, College Board

From December 7-9, 2005, a two-person team from Washington State participated in an international education conference sponsored by the Asia Society. The team was made up by:

- **Dr. Anand Yang**, Director of the University of Washington Jackson School of International Studies
- **Dr. Michele Anciaux Aoki**, Project Director for the State Innovations grant to Washington state

Preparing for the Global Age

Washington was one of 17 states featured in a new report issued at the States Institute this year, entitled [States Prepare for the Global Age](#), written by Edward B. Fiske, former Education Editor for the New York Times. The report includes state-by-state economic and education performance data and action steps to inform state and community planning. Specific recommendations include:

- **Expansion of teacher training** to deliver rigorous study in world history, geography, global science and economics—key subjects in a transformed economy
- **Development of world languages pipelines** from primary school on, especially focused on critical languages such as Chinese
- **High school redesign and new graduation requirements** to motivate better achievement and promote key international knowledge and skills
- **Innovative uses of technology** to expand the availability of international courses and assure that every school in the US has ongoing virtual links to peers in another country

21st Century Employees

The keynote speaker for the first evening was **Michael Eskew, CEO of UPS**, a global company whose fascinating story

was described in detail in *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman. Mr. Eskew outlined six specific traits he said that they are looking for in future employees at UPS:

- Trade literate
- Sensitive to foreign cultures
- Conversant in different languages
- Technology savvy
- Capable of managing complexity
- Ethical

Global Competence

There has been significant progress in a variety of states, but the opportunities for *systemic change* are still enormous – as is the sense of urgency. Virtually every speaker made reference to the “flat world” and the myriad reasons why the U.S. must expand its notion of education for the 21st century.

Beyond the concept of global competitiveness, there is simply a demand for our citizens to be **globally competent**. The need to collaborate will be as strong as the need to compete. This will take a new mindset and a larger set of skills than our schools are currently targeting.

The Washington State Team identified these key areas of focus for 2006:

1. **Expand Chinese Language Capacity** in Washington State, including Chinese language offerings at all levels pre-K – college and professional development for teachers from the U.S. and China.
2. **Integrate Global Perspectives** throughout the curriculum and in state assessments, especially the new Social Studies and Arts Classroom-Based Assessments.
3. **Promote Rigor in High Schools** by expanding access to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.
4. **Expand partnerships** in Early Learning, K-12, and Higher Ed.