

Washington State Coalition for International Education

September 3, 2004

John Rindlaub
Chair, Board of Trustees
Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
1301 5th Avenue, Suite 2500
Seattle, WA 98101

Dear Mr. Rindlaub,

Each year the Washington State Teacher of the Year is selected by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The award honors one outstanding teacher chosen through a rigorous selection process of nominees from every school district in the state. It is a highly distinguished honor that receives recognition and publicity across the state.

The Washington State Coalition for International Education proposes that a scholarship be provided for the Teacher of the Year honoree to participate in the annual Greater Seattle International Study Mission. This is an opportunity for the region's business community to give visibility to the importance of international perspectives in education that are crucial for our region's future in the global economy.

As a delegation member, the Teacher of the Year will see why international perspectives are highly valued by our region's business and government leaders and take this knowledge into to the classroom. The Teacher of the Year will directly observe what can be learned from world-class cities in relation to issues in our region. Bringing these lessons to the Teacher of the Year will emphasize what the next generation is facing to remain competitive, particularly in the most trade-dependent state in the country.

The Washington State Coalition for International Education links over 70 organizations in our state with a shared interest in preparing all students for today's interconnected world. The Coalition advocates for the development of cross-cultural skills through: the integration of international perspectives into the P-20 curricula; the expansion of world language education; and the encouragement of all forms of international exchanges. The Coalition has received support from the Asia Society and participates in the National Coalition for International Education co-chaired by former governors James B. Hunt Jr. of North Carolina and John Engler of Michigan.

We look forward to discussing this proposal further and sharing with you this vision for international education in our state—"Education for a world of opportunity."

Sincerely,

Masaru Kibukawa
Chair, Steering Committee
Washington State Coalition for International Education

CC: Nancy Anderson, Chair, Board of Directors, Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle
Steve Leahy, President, Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Bill Stafford, President, Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle

www.internationalledwa.org