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.

**Overview of the Institute**

The conference was designed to inform, engage, and motivate participants to take action in their own states. Specific breakout 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

**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 preschool 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.