

# CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

## The College of Education and Professional Studies

*No public university in Washington prepares more K-12 teachers and school personnel than Central Washington University. CWU began preparing students to teach in the State of Washington in 1890, and since has added school administration, counseling, and psychology to its program offerings. Today, CWU has the ninth largest college of education in the United States. CWU's College of Education and Professional Studies is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education and approved by the Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board.*

■ **Which teachers are most in demand?** In Spring 2007, the [Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction](#) (OSPI) reported that nearly 74 percent of all teaching areas showed evidence of some shortage. The highest number of vacancies occurred in the following teaching specializations:

1. Elementary Education - 1,910.5
2. Special Education - 848.4
3. Mathematics - 551.3
4. English Language Arts - 439.1
5. Science - 267.0
6. School Counselor - 220.5
7. Middle Level Math/Science - 209.5
8. Social Studies - 200.0

■ **What is the evidence of continuing demand for elementary education teachers?** The Washington State Employment Security Department forecasts both short- and long-term growth in the demand for elementary education teachers. More than 2,000 elementary teacher retirements by 2011 will create demand for K-5 teachers. And OFM projects that Washington's population will continue to grow at the rate of 100,000 new residents each year.

At the same time, the number of students taking the state teacher certification exam fell by nearly 40 percent — from 8,000 in 2003-04 to a little less than 5,000 in 2007-08. In other words, *fewer people are seeking to become teachers — of any kind.*

■ **What determines the subject area students choose to teach?** *Personal affinity for subject areas is the number one determiner of what subject area and level a person chooses to teach.* [OSPI](#) research shows that students choose majors not on the basis of supply and demand data, but "...on the basis of what they love to study and want to teach." For example, researchers found that even if students learned of shortages in special education and surpluses in social studies, they would major in history because they enjoy studying history.

Some other factors that influence supply and demand include the requirements and availability of certification areas, students' geographic preferences, the number of P-12 students and teachers, teacher retirement and attrition, salaries and benefits, and working conditions.

■ **How does CWU promote diversity within the College of Education?** CWU's College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) promotes understanding of cultural differences and enhances the success of under-represented teacher candidates with strategies that go well beyond what is required by the state and federal rules.

All teacher candidates must take a course specifically designed to help them understand differences among people as a result of income, ethnicity, and geographic location. Students experience teaching in diverse communities through required field experience. Another important influence on teacher preparation is the direct feedback CEPS solicits from teachers about whether they felt prepared to be effective in diverse situations, and as teachers.

**CWU also is actively recruiting the next generation of teachers**, partnering with high schools and community colleges to recruit under-represented students into the teaching profession. The Renton High School Teacher Academy involves CWU, the Renton School District, and Renton Technical College in encouraging under-represented students to pursue teaching careers in the Renton School District.

Students attend teacher education workshops at CWU and meet with the deans of Renton Technical College and Central. The students tour the campuses, experience some of college life, and learn about financial aid. The students also take a year-long course at CWU called "Careers in Education." Central is partnering with the Marysville School District and Everett Community College in a similar program to recruit under-represented students into the teaching profession.

<b>CERTIFICATES AWARDED FOR EDUCATION PROFESSIONS*</b>								
<b>2007-08 School Year</b>								
Type of Certificate	<b>CWU</b>	<b>WSU</b>	<b>WWU</b>	<b>EWU</b>	<b>TESC</b>	<b>UW</b>	<b>UWB</b>	<b>UWT</b>
Teacher	<b>494</b>	373	165	268	-	88	2	19
Principal	8	37	53	24	--	8	--	18
Program Admin.	2	4	--	--	--	0	--	0
Superintendent	--	12	9	1	--	1	--	--
Counselor	0	0	1	10	--	0	--	--
Psychologist	6	0	--	23	--	8	--	--
Social Worker	-	--	--	6	--	11	--	--

\* "First issue" certificates awarded to students who have never held one before.

Source: Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Annual Report 2007-2008, Certificates Issued and Certificated Personnel Placement Statistics, <http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/pubdocs/annrpt0708.pdf>

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**Award-winning Quality Marks CWU's College of Education and Professional Studies.**

One of the best indicators of the quality of CWU education programs is the success and effectiveness of program graduates. Some recent award winners include the following:

**Carnegie Foundation Washington State Professors of the Year:**

- 2005 -Dr. Bruce Palmquist, Physics
- 2003 - Dr. Terry Martin, English
- 1999 - Dr. James Louis Nimnicht, Business

**Washington State Teachers of the Year**

- 2009 - Susan Johnson, Cle Elum-Roslyn High School
- 2008 - Laura Jones, Pasco High School
- 2005 - Tamara Steen, Mabton Jr./Sr. High

**Washington State Higher Education Science Teacher of the Year**

- 2009 - Dr. Martha Kurtz, chair of the CWU Dept. of Chemistry

**Washington State Elementary School Science Teacher of the Year**

- 2008 - Amber Farthing, Lincoln Elementary School (Ellensburg)

**Washington State Principal of the Year**

- 2009 - Aaron Leavell, Bremerton High School
- 2008 - Stacey Locke, Eisenhower High School
- 2006 - Beth VanderVeen, Burlington-Edison High

For more information please contact Ann Anderson (509) 899-1488 and visit our Web site: <http://www.cwu.edu/legis/>