In Washington K-12 schools, about one teacher in five is a CWU graduate. CWU’s reputation as the top choice for educator preparation comes from a history of producing the state’s best educators, leading education change, and providing diverse opportunities for certification and field experience.

At CWU teacher preparation is everyone’s business. Together, the deans of the colleges of education, science, and arts and humanities lead the Center for Teaching and Learning, the governing body for teacher education. They share hiring decisions, ensuring that faculty who teach content areas for education majors have three to five years of K-12 teaching experience.

We measure performance. CWU was among the first in the nation to pilot a more comprehensive way of evaluating education majors. The Teacher Performance Assessment requires students to collect and build a portfolio of evidence that demonstrates what they know and are able to do and how they use feedback from their students to improve student success. CWU also knows where students went and how they did in high school; their admission scores to CWU and the teacher education program; how long it took them to get a job and whether they stayed in teaching.

We measure heart. Even the greatest technicians will fail in the classroom unless they can see and feel the world as their students do. CWU is the only institution in Washington that tests compassion, caring, and conscientiousness, through the Final Student Teacher evaluation. Award-winning faculty teach these essential skills by modeling them. One-to-one attention, small classes, and individual connection produce the state’s most effective teachers.

Hands-on K-12 experience is fundamental to teacher preparation. All colleges of education require students to complete “student teaching” before graduation and certification. But CWU spreads real-world experience throughout students’ course of study. More than 40 courses require some K-12 classroom experience, one of the most critical components of teacher preparation. Undergraduate research makes math and science more relevant and interesting.

No better proof exists of the remarkable quality of teacher preparation at CWU than the quality of our graduates. They are state and national educators of the year. They’re leaders in politics, science and the arts. CWU graduates capture more state accolades for teaching and administration than any other baccalaureate in the state.
PREPARING STEM TEACHERS FOR WASHINGTON CLASSROOMS

Work to enhance STEM education never stops at CWU. For example Dr. Bruce Palmquist, 2005 Washington Professor of the Year, is leading the work to develop a dual physics/math education degree, a program that provides state-of-the-art techniques for teaching physics, and community college partnerships to streamline the transfer process. Meantime, CWU’s Center for Teaching and Learning is collecting detailed data about student performance and uses it to drive change in teacher preparation.

Continuing innovations in math and science teacher preparation include:

- **Better evaluation** by requiring every CWU science teacher candidate to show evidence of their knowledge and skills.
- **Improved time to graduation and program consistency** by integrating three courses required both for education and science.
- **Increased readiness to teach science in diverse classrooms** by developing a field experience course in which students work in a multicultural high school.

The Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (CESME)

CESME focuses exclusively on improving the way science and math are taught and learned at all levels—from kindergarten through graduate school. CESME and its 125 educator-members collaborate to implement best practices in P-20 science and math teaching, learning, and evaluation. CESME provides a range of resources—from scientific equipment to professional development—for P-12, community college, and university faculty. CESME K-12 partnerships give CWU students hands-on experience while bringing new energy to K-12 STEM education, for example:

- **The Science and Mathematics Alliance for the Retention of Teachers (SMART)** provides scholarships to junior and senior math and science majors.
- **Watershed Activities to Enhance Research in Schools (WATERS)** brings watershed research to students in grades 5 through 12 by pairing a science graduate student with a public school teacher and a CWU faculty member.
- **Teachers on the Leading Edge (TOTLE)** provides professional development programs for Earth science teachers.
- **The Science Talent Expansion Program (STEP)** increases the number of traditionally under-represented students in STEM undergraduate majors.

BY THE NUMBERS

- **425** Teacher education graduates in 2010
- **108** Percent increase in online enrollment in Master’s degree education programs since 2008
- **89** Percent of CWU graduates who pass the Washington Educator Skills Tests Endorsements, required before graduates can begin teaching.
- **50** Percent of state teachers and principals of the year who are CWU alumni (2000-2010)
- **18** Percent of WA K-12 teachers who are CWU grads
- **12** National ranking for number of teachers produced
- **1** Rank in state for number of teachers produced each year
- **0** Number of colleges of education in Washington state larger than CWU.