UNIVERSITY of PUGET SOUND

Collaborations With Tacoma Public Schools
2009–10

University of Puget Sound is part of Tacoma's vibrant educational community. Committed to our role as a catalyst for learning, the college embraces cultural diversity, the challenges of global citizenship, and meaningful partnerships in the region. In partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, the institutions work together in numerous ways to strengthen, promote, and support academic achievement of young people.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Puget Sound School of Education offers the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) degree for a cohort of 50 full-time students per year, as well as the Master of Education (M.Ed.) in counseling program, which can be completed on a part-time basis. Other School of Education initiatives include:

Math and Science Curriculum Development: Professor John Woodward, a national leader in special education and mathematics curriculum, has developed the Transmath curriculum, which is being used in a number of special education classrooms throughout the district and is being considered for wider adoption next year.

Professor Amy Ryken works closely with the Tacoma Public Schools on projects such as working with a classroom teacher to develop a unit for teaching fractions to fifth-graders and coordinating with the elementary science facilitator to integrate the use of science kits into the district’s curriculum, as well as into the pre-service program at Puget Sound.

Mentor Teacher Advisory Council: Established five years ago, the council meets four times per year, with invited Tacoma mentor teachers sharing perspectives on mentoring practice and teacher development with School of Education faculty.

Partnership with Point Defiance Elementary: In its fifth year, this ongoing partnership focuses on discussion-based meetings that are led by Puget Sound M.A.T. students and Point Defiance mentor teachers, focusing on student learning and instructional practices.

Partnership with Tacoma High Schools: An ongoing, intentional partnership with Lincoln High School facilitates internship placements and shared discussion of culture, pedagogy, and learning. Lincoln staff members work with M.A.T. students regularly, and beginning in fall 2010, M.A.T. students will work with adolescents weekly through Lincoln High School’s “Lincoln Center.”

With the goal of fostering campus-school collaborations and drawing on Puget Sound’s resources related to science and math education, an initial planning meeting was held in spring 2009 to explore opportunities to partner with the Science and Math Institute (SAMI). Participants included 25 members of the Puget Sound math, sciences, and education faculty and teachers and administrators who work at SAMI and the School of the Arts (SOTA).

Professional Education Advisory Board: Counselors from Tacoma Public Schools serve on University of Puget Sound’s Professional Education Advisory Board (PEAB), a group of professionals charged by the state of Washington with overseeing education programs. For more than 30 years, the director of counseling in Tacoma has been a member of the M.Ed. PEAB. Puget Sound has a long history of involving teachers from the Tacoma school district.

Research in the Schools: Puget Sound undergraduates studying education both volunteer in Tacoma schools and conduct research. For example, one professor’s student is studying high-poverty schools that do better than expected on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) exam, using three Tacoma schools as case studies. Students taking Education 419: American Schools Inside and Out are required to volunteer in schools as part of the course; most do so in Tacoma Public Schools.

Student Teachers and Counselors: The School of Education places interns in 15–20 Tacoma schools annually; in the current year, 29 student teachers are in the Tacoma schools. Puget Sound’s M.Ed. counseling program collaborates with Tacoma Public Schools in the training of school counselors, with several interns placed in the district each year. M.A.T. and counseling graduates are regularly hired to serve Tacoma district schools.

Tacoma Public Schools Adjunct Instructors: Several staff members of Tacoma Public Schools also serve as adjunct instructors for Puget Sound’s School of Education.
Teaching Partnerships: The state of Washington is interested in collaborative teaching between pre-service teachers and mentor teachers in the public schools. This is a more complex version of student teaching than what currently exists in most pre-service education programs. Puget Sound’s School of Education is involved with a collaborative teaching project that includes mentor teachers from the Tacoma Public Schools and several M.A.T. students who will be student teaching in their classrooms.

Urban Literacy Study Group: This study group met six times in spring 2009 to discuss issues and practices in urban literacy with selected teachers at Lincoln High School. Led by Professor Fred Hamel, study group session attendees included Puget Sound instructional supervisors and an M.A.T. student teacher.

ACCESS PROGRAMS
Puget Sound’s Access Programs, a formal partnership of Tacoma Public Schools and University of Puget Sound, works to increase the pool of college-ready students from the Tacoma region. Throughout the school year, Access Programs works with Tacoma Public Schools to host campus visits to expose students to the Puget Sound campus and give them a greater understanding of what a liberal arts college provides. Recent visits have involved Gray, Baker, Truman, and Hunt middle schools. Access Programs also has hosted a visit for Lincoln Center’s freshman class.

Access to College Initiative (ACTI): ACTI provides exposure to college and thereby expands college opportunities for youth traditionally underrepresented in higher education by encouraging academic persistence for participants; comprehensive participation in a wide range of academic support, academic enrichment, and college cocurricular experiences; and encouraging parent involvement in academic and college preparation programs.

The Access Programs coordinator works with both Baker Middle School and Gray Middle School to encourage students to apply to Access Programs and to inspire academic persistence. The coordinator also facilitates visits and presentations from Puget Sound students and assists schools with the planning and hosting of parent information nights.

Other ACTI initiatives include:
• Tutoring provided to Access Programs students is held each week on campus.
• Access to College Days, six of which are held on Saturdays during the school year, allow participants to attend a campus tour and sessions focusing on academic support, study habits, college admission, and student life.
• College Career Days involve visits to local businesses and organizations to hear firsthand from professionals about their college pathways to careers.
• ACTI hosts annual achievement recognitions for participating youth and families.

Achiever Scholars Programs: Puget Sound Access Programs serves as a partner for Tacoma Public School students who are involved with the College Success Foundation and the Achiever Scholars program. Puget Sound’s academic advising office coordinates support for Achiever Scholars who attend Puget Sound.

Summer Academic Challenge: This tuition-free summer math and science enrichment program for students in grades seven through 12 enhances the ACTI programs provided during the academic year and prepares students for the next academic year. Teachers are drawn from both the community (including Tacoma schools) and the college. Current college students serve as mentors and teaching assistants to the young people participating in the program.

ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID
The Office of Admission assists counselors in the Tacoma Public Schools by serving as a resource for college nights. Student Financial Services staff members also serve as resources for these programs. More formal association between the Tacoma Public Schools and the Office of Admission includes:

Meetings with Middle School Students: The Office of Admission supports the Access to College Initiative with on-campus tours and admission counselor presentations for middle school students from the Tacoma Public Schools. Approximately 400 students participate in this program each year.

Tacoma Public Schools College Fair: For the last two years in partnership with the Tacoma Public Schools, the Puget Sound Office of Admission has conducted a college fair on the Puget Sound campus. Held in the evening in conjunction with the National Association for College Admission Counseling fair in Seattle, this event enables parents and students to meet with representatives from 125 colleges and representatives from the military, trade unions, and community-based organizations. The Tacoma Public Schools provide bus service from sites throughout the city to enable families without transportation to access the event. More than 1,000 parents and students attended in 2009. Puget Sound provided logistical planning, promotional support, space, and on-site coordination.

RACE AND PEDAGOGY INITIATIVE
The Race and Pedagogy Initiative (RPI) is a collaboration of University of Puget Sound and the South Sound community to educate students and teachers at all levels to think critically about race and to act to eliminate racism. Collaborations with Tacoma Public Schools include:

Community Partners Forum: Tacoma Public Schools administra- tors, teachers, parents, guardians, and students participate in a
variety of Race and Pedagogy Initiative programs, in addition to serving on the national conference planning committees and Community Partners Forum. Key leadership from Tacoma Public Schools includes Superintendent Arthur Jarvis; Tacoma Public Schools Assistant Superintendent Michael Power; and DaVerne Bell, Tacoma Public Schools’ coordinator of equity and diversity.

Program Sponsorship: Tacoma Public Schools is one of the sponsors of Race and Pedagogy Initiative programs, including the 2006, 2007, and 2008 Achievement Gap Summits and the 2009 Parents/Guardians Conference. Tacoma Public Schools also was one of the sponsors of the 2006 Race and Pedagogy National Conference.

Tacoma Public Schools Advisory Council: Professors Dexter Gordon and Grace Livingston have served since November 2009 on the Tacoma Public Schools’ Addressing the Achievement Gap Advisory Council. This task force appointed by Superintendent Jarvis responds to recommendations addressing the achievement gaps for all students in Tacoma Public Schools, with a focused effort on African American students.

Race and Pedagogy National Conference Planning: Strategies include engaging Tacoma Public Schools administrators, teachers, parents, and students in planning and program development that showcases the school district’s innovative programs addressing racial equity and closing the achievement gap. The 2010 Race and Pedagogy National Conference’s Call for Presentations encourages student projects as an important element of the conference.

Student Development Subcommittee: In fall 2009, the 2010 Race and Pedagogy National Conference Student Development Subcommittee partnered with Puget Sound’s Black Student Union to invite Tacoma high school students to a campus event, Jerkin’ in Tacoma, hosting a dinner to welcome approximately 80 high school students and promote the upcoming conference and the Access to College program.

Math Teachers Circle: Related to the National Conference and organized by Professor Emeritus David Scott, the Math Teachers Circle held workshops in October 2009 and February 2010 with the objective of helping teachers include more problem-solving activities in their classes.

SLATER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
The James R. Slater Museum, a distinctive feature of the Science Center at Puget Sound, is home to a collection of more than 75,000 specimens. It is second only to the Burke Museum at University of Washington as a regional natural history educational and research resource.

Natural History Curriculum: With the support of a grant from the Institute on Museum and Library Services, the Slater Museum is developing natural history curricula for elementary schools (fourth and fifth grades) and middle schools in collaboration with teachers and administrators. The elementary curriculum pilot began in January 2010, and the middle school curriculum will follow in the fall. The curricula (designed after meeting with teachers and administrators) will bring museum specimens into classrooms and is designed to hone students’ observation skills and to stimulate questions about form and function and how animals make a living. These curricula will be especially useful for classes that have difficulty going on field trips for financial or other reasons.

Puget Creek Field Guide: Professor Peter Wimberger worked with fourth-graders at Lowell Elementary to develop a field guide for Puget Creek.

School Tours: Museum Director Peter Wimberger, Collection Manager Gary Shugart, and undergraduate student docents provide tours and presentations to classroom groups from elementary to high school. Recent guests have included students from Bryant, Grant, Lowell, Wainwright, Washington Hoyt, Jason Lee, Mason, Lincoln, Stadium, SOTA, and SAMI.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Community Music: Complementing music instruction in the public schools, the Community Music Department offers year-round noncredit musical instruction to 600 students of all ages and skill levels, providing several performance opportunities each year. Community Music partnered in 2009 with the School of the Arts to serve as a host site for its student internship program.

Involvement in the Schools: Puget Sound faculty and staff work closely with the Tacoma Youth Symphony Orchestra, the TYSO String Orchestra Festival for middle school students, Tacoma String Philharmonia, and Tacoma String Symphony, in addition to serving as adjudicators for solo and ensemble contests. Music faculty are in the Tacoma Public Schools every week, working with music classroom placements for student teaching.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ACTION CENTER (CIAC)
CIAC is the primary connection between the campus and the city of Tacoma for community service and service-learning activities.

Civic Engagement Fair: The Tacoma Public School District’s School, Family, and Community Partnership Program is represented at the university’s Fall Civic Engagement Fair, allowing Puget Sound students to talk with district representatives about the different needs of various schools.
Etc. Tutoring Program: Empowerment Through Collaboration ("Etc.") is an ongoing program that matches Puget Sound undergraduates with children in the Tacoma Public Schools for one-on-one tutoring and includes parental support discussions. In fall 2009, 30 Puget Sound students worked with children from Tacoma Public Schools, from elementary to high school.

Kids Can Do!: Created in 1989 with the cooperation of community leaders, Kids Can Do! exposes area youth to higher education by involving them in campus events and activities. Puget Sound undergraduates serve as mentors and meet with their students four hours per week, striving to provide education about the value of a college education and helping them to understand their responsibility in obtaining that goal. Tacoma youth involved in the program are referred to CIAC by area schools, counselors, and currently enrolled families. In many cases mentors retain their relationships across four years and many continue to have contact after graduation.

Operation S.A.V.E.: Since its inception 11 years ago, Sharing the Abundance Volunteer Effort (Operation S.A.V.E.) has grown to a three-and-a-half-day project in partnership with Tacoma Public Schools. Reusable items left by Puget Sound students departing at the end of the school year are sorted and distributed to homeless teens, families in need, and organizations working on behalf of families of young people attending public schools. In May 2009, 400 60-gallon bags of clothing and food were collected and distributed.

Tutoring Services: The CIAC staff publishes monthly all tutoring requests from the community, most of which come from families served by Tacoma Public Schools. Parents seek assistance in understanding academics, particularly with respect to learning math. While CIAC assists many schools as they actively recruit tutors, staff members also invite them to ask parents if they would consider bringing their children to campus to be tutored.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS
Puget Sound works closely with Tacoma Citizens for Public Schools, attending meetings and writing opinion pieces in the local media in support of measures that affect the public schools.