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 the 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 32 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. It is used around the country, and it has been considered for adoption by the Tacoma School District. His recent work with Harvard University and the U.S. Department of Education involved exemplary mathematics instruction at Point Defiance Elementary School. The videotapes of participating teachers teaching fractions to fourth-graders served as a basis for developing protocols for evaluating mathematics instruction throughout the U.S.

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

Professor Fred Hamel has worked extensively in partnership with Lincoln High School, Point Defiance Elementary, and Stewart Middle School on professional development issues.

**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 the School of Education faculty.

**Partnerships with Point Defiance Elementary and Stewart Middle School:** In its fifth year at Point Defiance and its second at Stewart, each ongoing partnership focuses on discussion-based meetings led by Puget Sound M.A.T. students and mentor teachers at each location, exploring 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 since in fall 2010, M.A.T. students have worked 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).

**Evaluation Work for the Museum of Glass:** Professor Ryken has worked over the last five years with the board of directors for the Museum of Glass to evaluate the effectiveness of its educational programs. The museum has praised this work because so many students from the Tacoma School District visit the hot shop and the gallery as part of annual field trips.

**Professional Education Advisory Board:** Counselors from Tacoma Public Schools serve on 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 board.

**Volunteer Work in the Schools:** Puget Sound undergraduates taking a range of 290-level education courses from Professor Terry Beck 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 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 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—a more complex version of student teaching than what currently exists in most programs. Puget Sound’s School of Education is involved with a collaborative teaching project that includes mentor teachers from 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 Hamel, study group session attendees included Puget Sound instructional supervisors and an M.A.T. student teacher.

ACCESS PROGRAMS
A formal partnership of Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) and University of Puget Sound, Access Programs works to increase the pool of college-ready students from the Tacoma region. Throughout the school year, Access Programs works with TPS to host campus visits, exposing students to the Puget Sound campus and giving them a greater understanding of what a liberal arts college provides. Recent visits involved Gray, Stewart, Giaudrone, and Lincoln schools.

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 Stewart and Gray middle schools 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:
- Weekly tutoring on campus
- Access to College Days, allowing participants to attend a campus tour and sessions focused on academic support, study habits, college admission, and student life
- College Career Days, involving visits to local businesses and organizations to hear firsthand from professionals about their college pathways to careers

College Success Foundation Scholars: Puget Sound Access Programs serves as a partner for Tacoma Public School students who are involved with the College Success Foundation (CSF) Scholars, Achievers, Governors’, and Leadership 1000 programs. Puget Sound’s academic advising office coordinates support for CSF Scholars who attend Puget Sound.

Summer Academic Challenge: This tuition-free summer math and science enrichment program for students in grades seven through twelve 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. Students who participated in Summer Academic Challenge and were scheduled to graduate in 2011 and 2012 had a 93 percent on-time high school graduation rate.

ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID
The Office of Admission assists counselors in 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 district and the Office of Admission includes:

Meetings with Middle School Students: The Office of Admission supports ACTI with on-campus tours and admission counselor presentations for approximately 400 middle school students from TPS each year.

Tacoma Public Schools College Fair: For the last six years in partnership with TPS, the 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, as well as the military, trade unions, and community-based organizations. The school district provides bus service from sites throughout the city to enable families without transportation to access the event. Puget Sound Student Financial Services hosts informational financial aid sessions as part of the fair, and the college provides 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: TPS administrators, teachers, parents, guardians, and students participate in a variety of RPI programs, including the Community Partners Forum. The Race and Pedagogy Community Partners Forum is a sustained collaboration between campus and community working together to improve the racial-cultural experience and knowledge of all of our students.

Program Sponsorship: TPS is one of the sponsors of RPI programs, including the 2010 Race and Pedagogy National Conference, the 2010 Race and Pedagogy Youth Summit, and the 2012 Youth and Family Summit.
TPS Achievement Gap Advisory Council: Professors Dexter Gordon and Grace Livingston served on Tacoma Public Schools’ Addressing the Achievement Gap Advisory Council. This task force, appointed by former Superintendent Jarvis in November 2009, met to address recommendations addressing the achievement gaps for all students in TPS, with a focused effort on African-American students. This group developed a seven-point plan of action for the Tacoma School District. In May 2010 RPI served as a host site for Tacoma Public Schools’ Student Voices Summit with nearly 80 Tacoma high school students discussing and presenting their input on issues related to student achievement and academic success.

2012 Youth and Family Summit: RPI worked in partnership with TPS, Tacoma 360, and the REACH Center in hosting the 2012 Youth and Family Summit at Lincoln High School, which was attended by nearly 400 students and parents/guardians of Tacoma Public Schools students. The 2012 summit provided opportunities for high school and middle school students, parents/guardians, and other members of the community to take personal and collective action on critical issues around education and excellence. The call for proposals required that each should involve youth in the planning and presentation of the program, and efforts were made by the planners to connect youths with adult presenters during the staging for the workshops.

2012 Race, Education, and Criminal Justice Conference: This conference, with its focus on education and the criminal justice system, was one of the follow-through action points of the 2010 Race and Pedagogy National Conference. The conference facilitated the participation of students, educators, policymakers, and community members in exploring specific issues related to racial disparities in our educational and criminal justice systems. Nearly 400 individuals from diverse backgrounds participated. TPS administrators and staff members served as presenters in some conference sessions, and TPS Central Administration provided 12 fully funded conference scholarships to teachers and staff members. Twenty Tacoma teachers earned clock hours by participating in the conference. About 40 conference registrants indicated that they were affiliated with Tacoma Public Schools.

SLATER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The James R. Slater Museum of Natural History, a distinctive feature of University of 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 Curricula: With the support of grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Wells Fargo Foundation, and Mortenson Family Foundation, Slater Museum has developed natural history curricula for elementary schools (fourth and fifth grades) in collaboration with teachers and administrators. The curricula bring museum specimens into classrooms, honing students’ observation skills and addressing essential learning requirements about the scientific process, structure and function, and how animals make a living. In 2011–12 the kits were used by more than 1,700 different K-12 students, the vast majority of whom were from TPS. For the past two years Slater Museum has employed an Americorps volunteer, who has been able to go to the schools and administer the curricula.

Assessment: Slater Museum staff members perform pre- and post-engagement assessment of the curricula, examining observational skills, conceptual and specific knowledge, and facility with the scientific process. After working through the curricula, students show significant (100% to more than 1,000%) improvement in every measure examined.

Tours: Museum tours and presentations were given to more than 1,500 students in 2011–12, nearly 1,000 of those from Tacoma Public Schools. Guests in recent years include students from Bryant, Grant, Lowell, Wainwright, Skyline, Narrows View, Washington-Hoyt, Jason Lee, Mason, Stewart, Lincoln, and Stadium schools, as well as SOTA and SAMI.

Special Projects: Slater Museum staff members work with teachers and students on special projects, such as the Envirothon program at SAMI, providing resources for a team that won a state competition and went to nationals. Gary Shugart works weekly with two students from SAMI who have learned to skin mammals and are now doing their senior project in the museum. The museum has worked closely with Karen Povey at SAMI, providing her specimens and expertise for her classes. Currently museum staff members are helping her work on a mammal hair trap surveying protocol with her senior project students. The museum has provided space and specimens for a science and art minor term course that brought more than 40 SOTA, SAMI, and Stewart students to the museum and university. Additional outreach efforts include activities at Ford Middle School, after-school programs at Gray and Geiger schools, and staff members and docents serving as science fair judges at Bryant Middle School.

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. Private music lessons, ensembles, summer camps, and musical theater classes help participating public school students develop musical skills which strengthen their school orchestras, bands, choral groups, and theater programs. Instruction and performance opportunities through community music prepare individual students for success in local and state school music competitions.

Involvement in the Schools: Puget Sound faculty, staff, and students work closely with the Puget Sound Youth Wind Ensemble, Tacoma Youth Symphony Orchestra, TYSO String Orchestra Festival for middle school students, Tacoma String Philharmonia, and Tacoma String Symphony, in addition to serving as clinicians and adjudicators for solo and ensemble contests and choral, band, and orchestral festivals. Music faculty members and students are in Tacoma Public Schools each week, working in music classrooms for practicum and student teaching placements.
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND ACTION CENTER (CIAC)

CIAC is the primary connection between the campus and the city of Tacoma for student community service and civic engagement activities.

Civic Engagement Fair: The Tacoma Public School District's School, Family, and Community Partnership Program are 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 on-campus program that matches Puget Sound undergraduates with students in Tacoma Public Schools for one-on-one tutoring and includes parental support discussions. In 2011–12 more than 100 Puget Sound students worked with elementary, middle, and high school students from TPS.

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 students four hours per week, sharing the value of a college education and helping students understand their responsibility in obtaining that goal. Tacoma youth participants 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 15 years ago, Sharing the Abundance Volunteer Effort (Operation S.A.V.E.) has grown to a four-day project in partnership with TPS. Reusable items left by Puget Sound students departing at the end of the academic 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 2012 600 60-gallon bags of clothing, food, and household items were collected and distributed.

Kids 4 Music: In 2011 a student working in and receiving support from CIAC, created a music tutoring and band after-school program for kids at McCarver Elementary School. Completely free for participants, the program provides music instruction two days a week—one day for private tutoring, the other to be used as a full band rehearsal. All instruments being used have been donated, along with the time and talents of the tutors and band instructor.

Tutoring Services: CIAC staff members distribute a monthly hard copy publication and a weekly online publication that identify all tutoring requests from the community, most of which come from families served by TPS. These include requests from AVID tutoring volunteers located in the schools and Americorps volunteers assigned to schools or other educational resources in Tacoma. CIAC assists many schools in actively recruiting tutors, and encourages schools to invite parents to involve their children in the ETC Tutoring Program on campus.

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.