



## Collaborations with Tacoma Public Schools 2013–14

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 30 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:

**Annual Internship Placements:** Each year the School of Education places the majority of its M.A.T. candidates in Tacoma Public Schools for two six-week internships in fall, and for a 15-week student teaching placement in spring. 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. Such internships involve intentional communication with principals and extensive interactions with mentor teachers and counselors. Clinical instructors in the M.A.T. program spend several hours each day inside Tacoma classrooms coaching beginning teachers and interacting with mentors. Each year Tacoma teachers, counselors, specialists, and principals visit Puget Sound to share insights about teaching, learning, and career opportunities with M.A.T. students.

**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. His recent work with Harvard University and the U.S. Department of Education resulted in publication of the guide *Improving Mathematical Problem Solving Grades 4 Through 8* by the Institute of Education Sciences. Videotapes of participating teachers at Point Defiance Elementary School teaching fractions to fourth-graders served as a basis for developing protocols for evaluating mathematics instruction throughout the U.S.

**Mentor Teacher Advisory Council:** Established six years ago, the council meets two times per year, with invited Tacoma men-

tor teachers sharing perspectives on mentoring practice and teacher development with the School of Education faculty.

**Partnerships with Point Defiance Elementary, Stafford Elementary, and Stewart Middle School:** Fred Hamel and Amy Ryken support intentional partnership meetings at schools where M.A.T. candidates are placed, focused on discussions led by Puget Sound M.A.T. students and mentor teachers at each location, exploring student learning and instructional practices.

**Partnership with Lincoln High School:** Lincoln staff members work with M.A.T. students regularly, and since fall 2010, M.A.T. students have tutored adolescents weekly through Lincoln High School's "Lincoln Center Program." This tutoring is tied to Fred Hamel's EDUC 620 course, Adolescent Identities, Literacies, and Communities, and is co-supervised with Molly Pugh, clinical instructor in the School of Education.

**Professional Education Advisory Board:** Counselors and teachers 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.

**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.

### 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, Giadrone, 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 Stewart, Truman, 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
- A pilot high school tutoring support for students participating in a new high academic rigor program

**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 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. 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.

In 2013 the university committed to meeting the full financial need of Summer Academic Challenge alumni who enroll at Puget Sound.

## MCCARVER EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Since 2009 Professors Amy Ryken and Monica DeHart have collaborated with partners at University of Washington, Tacoma, the Greater Metroparks Foundation, and other local community groups to support educational exchanges and community development collaboration with McCarver Elementary School. The initiative includes ongoing classroom collaborations between elementary and college students with an eye toward (a) engaging and supporting specific academic goals/projects in both classrooms; (b) exposing McCarver students to different college

campuses and experiences; (c) integrating McCarver students into college-bound programs, such as Access Programs; and (d) cooperating on the development and execution of community development projects, such as the McCarver and Wright Park renovation efforts.

## 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 250 middle school students from TPS each year.

**Tacoma Public Schools College Fair:** For the last seven 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 170 colleges and universities. 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 students.

**Collaborative Partnership:** RPI remains active in TPS's Academic Success for All Students: Closing the Gap Workgroup, a sustaining partnership effort that began when Professors Dexter Gordon and Grace Livingston served on the Tacoma Public Schools' Addressing the Achievement Gap Advisory Council, appointed by former Superintendent Jarvis in November 2009. RPI participated in Foundations for Tacoma Students' inaugural Building Connection Community Dialogue session that focused on developing strategies for building Tacoma partnerships for student achievement. Amanda Scott-Thomas, director of TPS community partnership, academic equity and achievement, was one of the

panelists to present ongoing work on closing the achievement gap at RPI Community Partners Forum in April 2013. Other panelists included Sharonne Navas, director of Washington State Equity in Education Coalition, and Carmetus Parker, member of The Black Collective's Education Committee. The Office of Community Partnership, Academic Equity and Achievement is a long-standing community partner.

**RPI in Tacoma Schools:** Two RPI Chism scholars in residence visited Tacoma schools in spring 2014. Paul Rucker visited Baker Middle School, Foss High School, and Truman Middle School. More than 600 Tacoma students attended his presentations on issues of race and criminal justice through live performance, original compositions, and visual art. Walidah Imarisha visited Lincoln High School and offered a social justice poetry workshop to about 30 students in Hannah Chin Pratt's Spanish class.

**Campus Experience:** In June 2013, as part of their last week of school before summer break, about 60 young men from the Teaching Black Male Learners book club schools, along with parents and book club leaders, took a study trip to University of Puget Sound. For most of the students, the trip marked their first visit to a college campus. The Teaching Black Male Learners program wanted to introduce students to college life, allow students to facilitate a book club session on campus, meet professors, enjoy lunch, and tour the campus with college students.

Similar to previous conferences, the 2014 Race and Pedagogy National Conference will welcome more than 2,000 local, regional, national, and international participants to engage issues of race and its impact on education. University of Puget Sound will again host the conference, Sept. 25–27, 2014.

The theme for the 2014 Race and Pedagogy National Conference is **"What NOW is the Work of Education and Justice?: Mapping a New Critical Conscience."** In asking "What Now?" the conference will challenge participants to align concepts of education and justice in ways that call for conscience, critique, and change. Conference offerings include critical models of teaching of science and race; re-examination of the criminal justice system, including the problem of disparities in discipline in our schools and its connection to a pipeline to prison as part of our nation's mass incarceration that has been characterized as the "New Jim Crow"; innovations in public education, including recruitment and retention of teachers of color, culturally responsive teaching, and other efforts to achieve equity; methods of documenting and researching social struggles; and explorations of institutional change processes.

An impressive roster of high-profile keynote speakers will anchor the conference: civil rights activist, prison abolitionist, and professor Angela Davis; indigenous and environmental rights advocate and former Green Party vice presidential candidate Winona LaDuke; Harvard professor and director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research, Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.; and sociologist and Duke University professor, Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva. These four keynote speakers will headline an extraordinary team of educators, including scholars, artists, administrators, activists, teachers, and students at all levels who will

deliver a conference program of special spotlight sessions, as well as more than 50 concurrent panels, roundtables, poster sessions, artistic installations, performances, and theater productions.

For more information visit [pugetsound.edu/raceandpedagogy](http://pugetsound.edu/raceandpedagogy).

## 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. The kits have been used annually by more than 1,700 different K-12 students, the vast majority of whom were from TPS. During recent 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 have been given annually to more than 1,500 students, nearly 1,000 of those from Tacoma Public Schools. Guests 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 miniterm 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 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 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 2013–14 more than 60 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 2013, 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. These students now operate as an officially recognized campus club.

### 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.

