



Collaborations with Tacoma Public Schools 2014–2015

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.

ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID

The Office of Admission assists counselors in Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) 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:

New Tacoma Student Financial Aid Commitment: Beginning in 2015 the university will meet the full, demonstrated financial need of Tacoma Public Schools students who are admitted and choose to attend Puget Sound (subject to commitment criteria). The objective is to provide more Tacoma students the opportunity to attend Puget Sound.

Meetings with Middle School Students: The Office of Admission supports the Access to College Initiative (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 eight 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.

Tacoma Public Schools Visit Day: In spring 2015 the Office of Admission will host a new Tacoma Public Schools Campus Visit Day, introducing TPS juniors to Puget Sound and encouraging them to consider attending.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Puget Sound partners closely with multiple organizations that support Tacoma Public Schools:

Tacoma College Support Network: Puget Sound's executive director of community engagement, Access Programs coordinator, and admis-

sion office representatives are active members of the Tacoma College Support Network (TCSN). TCSN is a collaboration of organizations that promote college, career, and citizenship readiness for all Tacoma students by encouraging higher two-year and four-year college enrollments of high school graduates, and higher college and postsecondary graduation rates of all Tacoma residents. It supports TPS in efforts to increase academic performance of students (beginning in kindergarten) to eliminate the achievement gap, reduce school dropout rates, and increase Tacoma high school graduation rates. TCSN's emphasis is to aid students who have limited access to resources and opportunities, with special focus on low-income and underrepresented students.

TPS Partner Organizations: The University of Puget Sound is actively engaged with key organizations that support Tacoma Public Schools. Those entities include TCSN, the Foundation for Tacoma Students, College Success Foundation, Metropolitan Development Council, and United Way. Puget Sound financially supports and/or partners with those entities on numerous programs and projects.

Pierce County/TPS Higher Education Collaboration: Puget Sound's executive director of community engagement leads a Tacoma-Pierce County Higher Education Team involving countywide higher education entities, the Puget Sound Educational Service District, Tacoma Public Schools, other K-12 districts, and TPS partner organizations (listed above). This collaboration is building a higher education culture to right match K-12 graduates with Pierce County's multiple and diverse higher education institutions. This partnership also will engage countywide economic development, workforce, and employer leaders to identify and meet Pierce County's current and future employment needs with our homegrown, educated, and trained employees.

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 seven years ago, the council meets two 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, Stafford Elementary, and Stewart Middle School: Professors Fred Hamel and Amy Ryken support intentional partnership meetings at schools where M.A.T candidates are placed. These meetings involve 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. Since fall 2010 M.A.T. students have tutored adolescents weekly through Lincoln High School's "Lincoln Center Program." This tutoring is tied to Professor 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 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 partners 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, Giardrone, 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 and comprehensive participation in a wide range of academic support, academic enrichment, and college co-curricular experiences, as well as encouraging parent involvement in academic and college preparation programs.

The Access Programs coordinator works with Stewart, Truman, and Gray middle schools to recruit students for Access Programs and inspire academic persistence. The coordinator also facilitates visits and presentations from Puget Sound students and assists schools with planning and hosting parent information nights.

Other ACTI Initiatives include:

- 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 new high school tutoring program for students participating in a highly rigorous academic program.

College Success Foundation Scholars: Puget Sound Access Programs serves as a partner for Tacoma Public Schools 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, education, and Monica DeHart, sociology and anthropology, have developed educational exchanges and community development partnerships with McCarver Elementary School in collaboration with partners at University of Washington, Tacoma, the Greater Metro Parks Foundation, and other local community groups. The initiative includes ongoing classroom collaborations between elementary and college students to support (a) engaging academic goals/projects in elementary and college 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 implementation of community development projects such as McCarver and Wright Park renovation efforts.

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, a sustained collaboration between the 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, which focused on developing strategies for building Tacoma partnerships for student achievement. Amanda Scott-Thomas, director of TPS Community Partnership, Academic Equity & Achievement, was one of the panelists to present ongoing work on closing the achievement gap to members of the 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 & 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 the 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 introduced students to college life and allowed 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 September 2014 Race and Pedagogy National Conference, hosted by University of Puget Sound, welcomed more than 2,000 local, regional, national, and international participants to engage issues of race and its impact on education.

The theme for the 2014 Race and Pedagogy National Conference was **"What NOW is the Work of Education and Justice?: Mapping a New Critical Conscience."** In asking "What now?," the conference challenged participants to align concepts of education and justice in ways that call for conscience, critique, and change. Conference of-

ferings included critical models of teaching of science and race; re-examination of the criminal justice system, including disparities in discipline in schools contributing to the "pipeline to prison" as part of our nation's mass incarceration, which 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 anchored 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 Hutchins Center for African and African American Research **Henry Louis Gates Jr.**; and sociologist and Duke University professor **Eduardo Bonilla-Silva**. These keynote speakers headlined an extraordinary team of educators, including scholars, artists, administrators, activists, teachers, and students at all levels who delivered a conference program of special spotlight sessions and more than 50 concurrent panels, roundtables, poster sessions, artistic installations, performances, and theater productions.

For more conference information, visit pugetsound.edu/rpnc.

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 visited schools to 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 percent to more than 1,000 percent) improvement in every measure examined.

Tours: Museum tours and presentations have been provided 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 mini-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 non-credit 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.

CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT (CICE)

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

Civic Engagement Fair: Organizations that work in and with Tacoma Public Schools 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, learn about tutoring and mentoring options, and engage with the district.

TPS/UPS Tutoring Program: In fall 2014 at the request of TPS, the college converted its on-campus tutoring program to an approach where campus volunteers support teachers in classrooms and existing after-school tutoring programs, partnering with the following entities:

- Lincoln High School for after-school ESL tutoring
- Bryant Montessori School for an in-class math tutoring program with one of the first through third grade teachers
- Peace Community Center, placing campus tutors at:
 - McCarver Elementary School
 - Jason Lee Middle School and
 - Peace Community Center's Hilltop Scholars program for high school students

Partnering with Peace Community Center enhances an existing Tacoma program instead of duplicating efforts less effectively. Puget Sound seeks to grow these partnerships by recruiting more tutors and expanding the number of schools supported.

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 two to 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 CICE.

Operation S.A.V.E.: Since its inception 16 years ago, Sharing the Abundance Volunteer Effort (Operation S.A.V.E.) has grown to a four-day project in partnership with TPS. Reusable clothing 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.

Kids 4 Music: In 2011 a student working in CICE 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 as a full band rehearsal. All instruments being used have been donated, along with the time and talents of the tutors and band instructor. Students evolved this program into an ongoing, officially recognized campus club.

