

White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) Update...

Friday, November 3, 2006

WCELI is a partnership of community members and public and private organizations working to create sustainable, integrated and accessible child development and family support services that are reflective of the diverse cultures, strengths, and needs of White Center families. Puget Sound ESD has been selected as the intermediary for WCELI and is in the process of gathering community input and assistance in designing WCELI's services.

White Center Community Summit

Don't forget the White Center Community Summit on Saturday, November 18 from 10-3 at Mount View Elementary School (10811 12th Ave SW Seattle, WA 98146). Childcare, lunch, transportation and interpreters will be provided. We want as many White Center residents to attend this as possible, to tell us what services they want WCELI to provide for their children and families.

To download a flyer advertising this event, click [here](#). We are in the process of translating these flyers into other languages. For more information please contact Edna Noga at 425-917-7756 or enoga@psesd.org.

Interested in Helping at the Summit?

We are actively recruiting for more facilitators and scribes to help with the focus groups that will be conducted at the Community Summit. We are looking for facilitators and scribes who speak a variety of languages, including English. Facilitator/scribe training will be taking place soon. For more information please contact Edna Noga at 425-917-7756 or enoga@psesd.org.

Thrive By Five WA announces new CEO

Earlier this year, the Gates Foundation asked a group of White Center stakeholders if they wanted White Center to be one of two demonstration communities of the new state-wide initiative called [Thrive By Five WA](#). The answer was a resounding YES! Thrive by Five WA, a public-private partnership chaired by Gov. Christine Gregoire and Bill Gates, Sr., recently announced their selection of Dr. Graciela Italiano-Thomas as the organization's first CEO. Dr. Italiano-Thomas is a prominent education leader and most recently directed efforts to ensure access to high-quality preschool for all of Los Angeles County's 4 year-olds, regardless of income, by 2014. To read more about this exciting announcement, click [here](#).

Chicago Educare Trip

WCELI will be sending a new group to Chicago on Nov. 6 and 7 to visit the Educare center. Those going include WCELI staff, Highline Head Start staff, WCELI Planning Team members, PSESD staff and White Center Residents.

What's Happening...

We are continuing to work on consolidating the workgroup service plans that were submitted by the 14 workgroups. Once that is done, we will bring the plans back to the Collaborative Planning Team (which includes staff from PSESD, King County Health Department, Child Care Resources, Highline Community College, Trusted Advocates, and the Highline School District) for further refinement. We want to again acknowledge the hard work of all the workgroups which have included a wide representation of community partners and approximately 40 White Center residents.

If you or anyone else would like to be added to our email list or receive hard copies of WCELI updates and newsletters, please contact Linda Norkool at 425-917-7750 or lnorkool@psesd.org. For all other general communication, please email wceli@psesd.org.