

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

**Tuesday, November 21, 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 A Big Success!**

The White Center Community Summit was a big success with 490 residents in attendance. Of the residents that came, over 350 participated in 2 hour Community Conversations (focus groups) which were facilitated in 10 different languages. Families and community members were asked to respond to questions related to what services they want and need from this initiative to help their young children grow and learn.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank the following: Trusted Advocates, Mount View Elementary School, Non-Profit Assistance Center, Making Connections, Highline Head Start, Puget Sound ESD, PASEFIKA, Southwest Youth and Family Services, King County Housing Authority—Greenbridge, Refugee Federation Service Center, United Indians of All Tribes Foundations, Evergreen High School Polynesian Club, Eritrean Dance Group, Sylvester Elementary Hip Hop Group, Joyas Mestizas Folkloric Dance Group, Native Voices (U of W Legacy of Pride Seattle Indian Women's Services) all the wonderful volunteers and food vendors. Without these important partnerships and collaborations this summit would not have been successful. Thank you!

## **Pictures from the Community Summit**

If you would like to see a slide show of the Community Summit click the link provided below:

[ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Community\\_Summit\\_Photos.pdf](ftp://ftp.psesdhs.org/wceli/Community_Summit_Photos.pdf).

**\*\*There are A LOT of pictures so please allow a few minutes for the file to upload\*\***

## **What's Happening...**

The information gathered at the Community Summit will be analyzed for themes and a final report will be submitted. This final report will be made available to the public including copies sent to the families that attended. The collaborative planning team will incorporate the results of the summit and other community engagement activities into the development of the business plan that will be submitted to Thrive By Five.

We are also in the process of hiring staff to translate current and future WCELI materials (updates, newsletters, service plans, etc.) into various languages.

*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@psed.org](mailto:lnorkool@psed.org).*

*For all other general communication, please email [wceli@psed.org](mailto:wceli@psed.org).*

*To view our web-page click <http://www.psed.org/ecfs/wceli.html>.*