



January 9, 2008 Update

*The White Center Early Learning Initiative (WCELI) is a partnership of community members and public and private organizations working to demonstrate sustainable, integrated and accessible early learning services that are reflective of the diverse cultures, strengths, and needs of White Center families, and serve as a model for other communities in Washington state. WCELI is one of two Demonstration Community Projects, part of Thrive by Five Washington's strategy to meet the goal of every child in Washington State ready for success in school and in life. Puget Sound Educational Service District is the lead agency coordinating efforts in the White Center Thrive by Five Demonstration Community.*

**Community Meeting:  
Meet the Candidate for WCELI Executive Director  
January 24, 2008 (Thursday)  
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.  
White Center Heights Elementary School  
10015 6th Ave. S.W.  
Seattle, WA 98146**

You are invited to meet the candidate for the WCELI Executive Director on Thursday, January 24, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., at a public meeting at White Center Heights Elementary School.

The interview team for the Executive Director position interviewed four candidates selected by the search firm, and unanimously recommended one candidate move forward in the process. The interview team was composed of representatives of the WCELI Community Advisory Committee, Puget Sound ESD and Thrive by Five.

At the public meeting on January 24, the candidate will make a presentation to the group, after which the audience can provide written input regarding recommended areas for follow-up. The final hiring decision will be made by the Superintendent of PSESD with input from Thrive by Five and the interview team members.

We hope you can come to this community meeting on January 24. Light refreshments will be served and interpreters will be available.

### **Greenbridge Early Learning Center (GELC) Update**

The capital funding campaign for the Greenbridge Early Learning Center (GELC) is in high gear.

The GELC will provide full day child development and family support services for 32 infants and toddlers, and 102 three- and four-year-old children. It will be an Educare Center, part of a national partnership of the highest quality early learning centers for children birth to five. The GELC will also serve as a hub to provide training and enhancements to early learning providers in the larger community, as well as support to all White Center families.

The 30,000 square foot building will be located next to White Center Heights Elementary School, and will also provide permanent space for the Head Start program that had to move when Park Lake began its transformation into Greenbridge.

Funds for the construction of the GELC are separate from operational funding for WCELI services. We are seeking funding from both public and private sectors in the amount of approximately \$19.5 million, which includes construction of the building, parking, and all “soft” costs such as architectural and permitting fees, etc.

To date, from the public funding sector, we have secured \$400,000 in Head Start funding and \$4.6 million in federal New Markets Tax Credits. The King County Housing Authority donated the land for the building.

From the private sector, we received word in December of a grant of \$7 million dollars in philanthropic funding!

Other good news in December came when Governor Gregoire responded to a request from Puget Sound ESD to include \$2 million in her capital budget proposal for GELC. It is now up to the state House and Senate to decide whether to include these funds in the state supplementary 2008 budget.

If we receive this state funding, we will have \$14 million toward costs needed to complete the building. We hope to receive another \$300,000 in Head Start funds, \$1million in federal HUD funds, an additional \$1.5 million in state and county capital funds, and the rest in private funds.

## Thank you.

Please watch for another Update in early February with important announcements from Thrive by Five, and more information on the Executive Director and GELC.

Thank you to the many organizations and community members who continue to share their time, energy and enthusiasm to improve early learning and create bright futures for children in White Center and, ultimately, throughout the state of Washington.

John Bancroft, Executive Director  
Puget Sound ESD Educare/Head Start

For questions or general information, please call 425-917-7760, email [wceli@psed.org](mailto:wceli@psed.org), and/or visit us at [www.psed.org](http://www.psed.org) by clicking **WCELI** under the Quick Links.