

## HIGHLIGHT

### Faculty and staff at WSU Puyallup contribute to science education in local schools



(Above left: WSU Puyallup and Sigma Xi judges (left to right) Chad Carter, Joe Harrison, Jessica Carter, Andy Bary, Vernene Scheurer, Rita Hummel, Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt, Pat Moore, Gwen Windom, Jim Hansen, Gwen Stahnke. Not pictured: Alvin Kirbawy. Above right: At the Awards ceremony, Andy Bary (left) and Jon Newkirk (right) present students with the WSU awards.)

Listen closely. You can hear the growing voices of lawmakers and educators speaking of the need for stronger and more comprehensive K-12 science and math education. The recently released Governor's report, "Washington Learns: World-Class, Learner-Focused, Seamless Education," proposes bold reforms in education to "hold our students to math and science standards that match or exceed the standards of other states and nations, and we will make sure that students, from kindergarten through graduate school, are prepared for their next level of classes." At WSU, the College of Sciences has a strong commitment to improving science education across the state. The goal of the Science Mathematics Engineering Education Center (SMEEC) in Pullman is to revitalize, renew, and enhance science, mathematics and technology education in the state of Washington through effective and innovative inservice and preservice programs at all levels, K-16.

At WSU Puyallup, faculty and staff are committed to fostering interest and encouraging science studies in local school districts through outreach to local science classes, providing tours and classroom speeches. In April, eleven representatives from the Puyallup Center and the local chapter of Sigma Xi participated in the Puyallup School District's Science Explorations 2007 Science Fair. The judging took place Friday night and Saturday morning and included 290 students from 21 schools. At the Awards ceremony, Jon Newkirk and Andy Bary presented WSU awards consisting of a certificate suitable for framing plus a \$20 Borders gift card to eight promising young scientists in grades K - 6 for the best research projects related to WSU Puyallup's mission. Gwen Windom and Rita Hummel gave out ten Sigma Xi certificates with \$25 checks attached.

### WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region; Programs for Its People

Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup from February through December. For story ideas for upcoming Highlights, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, [terwin@wsu.edu](mailto:terwin@wsu.edu), 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, [jnewkirk@wsu.edu](mailto:jnewkirk@wsu.edu), 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee.