

Report on States Institute on International Education

Washington, DC November 17-19, 2003

We must continue to improve student performance in reading, math, science, and American history and democratic institutions. But we must also recognize that in the 21st Century, international knowledge and skills are not longer a luxury – they are a necessity

- James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Former Governor of North Carolina and Co-chair of the National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools

Co-Sponsoring Organizations

[Asia Society](#) (organizer)

[National Governors Association](#)

[Council of Chief State School Officers](#)

[Education Commission of the States](#)

[National Conference of State Legislatures](#)

[National Association of State Boards of Education](#)

[National Coalition on Asia and International Studies in the Schools](#)

Washington State was one of 25 states to attend the second annual States Institute on International Education in the Schools, held in Washington, DC November 17-19, 2003. The 2003 State Team consisted of:

- **Carolyn Tolas**, Vice President of the State Board of Education
- **Christopher Thompson**, Executive Director of the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission
- **Kristin Hayden**, Founder and Executive Director of One World Now!
- **Lili Hein**, Program Coordinator of the Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle
- **Michele Anciaux Aoki**, Project Director for P-20 International Education Summit

Overview of the Institute

The conference was designed to inform, engage, and motivate participants to take action in their own states. A variety of topics were addressed:

- How States Address the Challenge
- Public Attitudes Towards International Education: New Research
- International Education and the National Interest
- Education and Economic Development
- International Education and the United States' Role in the World
- The College Board's New World Languages and Cultures AP Initiatives
- Creating Internationally Themed Schools
- Leveraging State Technology Resources

Education for Peace

A highlight of the Institute was the keynote speech by David Hamburg, President Emeritus, Carnegie Corporation and Winner, Presidential Medal of Freedom, who reminded us that we have an opportunity – a worldwide imperative – at this moment in time to use education as a means of creating a world that can deal peacefully with conflict.

Highlights for Washington

Of particular interest to Washington state:

- **New AP Exams:** The College Board has passed a resolution to increase world language study and awareness of cultures by offering Advanced Placement (AP) language and culture tests in Chinese, Italian, Japanese, and Russian. There is a shift in policy that AP is not just for the elite students, but for any student who is willing to take on the work.
- **International Schools:** The Gates Foundation has launched a new initiative to create internationally themed high schools in New York, Los Angeles, and North Carolina. The purpose is to help the students develop cross-cultural competence and confidence, and prepare for future career opportunities.
- **E-Learning:** There is a huge growth in demand for e-learning. The technology and interest are there, but the education community is not adapting fast enough for the students. Clearly, educational technology experts need to work with teachers of world languages and social studies to offer courses electronically.

Next Steps

The three most important things to be done in order to close the international gap in our state:

1. Engage our state leadership – Supt. Terry Bergeson and Gov. Gary Locke.
2. Leverage our K-20 technology infrastructure by promoting internationally oriented technology-based programs, such as iEarn (and programs from KCTS).
3. Leverage current Teacher of the Year awards by creating international learning opportunities (such as all expense paid international exchanges) for award winners, who will then have personal experiences with international education.