



We are for the academic success of *all* students. Increasing access to significant learning experiences for students, especially those under-represented in higher education is our primary goal. The measure of our success over time will be improvements not only in retention rates, but also academic achievement and graduation rates.

We work at the state, regional, and national levels with faculty members, staff, and administrators to share good practices and carry out collaborative projects aimed at improving undergraduate teaching and student learning. Through workshops, institutes, campus visits, publications, and a website, the Washington Center promotes projects aimed at enhancing the learning of all students. Over 6,500 people receive our newsletters, we regularly act as consultants, and we connect people, projects, and resources.

### **Our work**

We focus our work in four major areas: *curricular initiatives*, including developmental education, quantitative literacy and curriculum for the bioregion; *equity and diversity*, including the organizing of an annual retreat for campus teams; *faculty enrichment*, including the scholarship of teaching and learning; and *learning communities*, including the national summer institutes and national learning community directory and resources.

### **Our assumptions**

Three major assumptions inform our practice: 1) collaboration is key both within and across institutions; 2) effective educational practices need to be recognized and built upon; and, 3) systemic long-term change results from small-scale, locally determined changes in practice that are carefully documented and nurtured.

### **Regular funding**

In the 1987-89 biennium budget allocation, the Washington State Legislature established Washington Center as a public service center of The Evergreen State College, with a mandate to work with two and four-year higher education institutions and other educators throughout the state to improve the quality of undergraduate education.

### **Consortium members and staff**

Washington Center is organized as a statewide consortium with a national reach. Our member institutions include thirty-three community and technical colleges, six public four-year institutions, one tribal college, and eleven independent colleges in Washington State. Our core staff includes two co-directors and two support staff.

### **Collaboration**

In addition to organizing initiatives, the Center collaborates in other state, regional, national, and international educational reform initiatives. We regularly seek grants for special projects. The National Council on Education in the Disciplines, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Science Foundation, the Mathematical Association of America, the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, and The Russell Family Foundation have supported Washington Center's work.