



NWATE (Northwest Association of Teacher Education) is a network of educators engaged in discussions and collaboration about teacher education in the Northwest region, with members in Alberta, Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Saskatchewan, Washington, and Oregon .

This association is an ideal opportunity to get involved with other educators concerned with similar issues in our field. This includes in-service and pre-service teachers, field supervisors, teacher preparation educators, undergraduate and graduate education students

Visit our website at:



nwate.com

NWATE NEWS

Newsletter for the Northwest Association of Teacher Educators

Message from the President



Greetings and welcome back to work for the 2012-2013 academic year! I am using the email list of attendees for our Northwest Association of Teacher Educators to briefly review the 2012 NWATE Annual Conference (held in Edmonton) and to share and extend our short business meeting that we had there. First, I wish to thank all those who attended the conference. We had almost 40 attendees and the conference presentations were excellent. The conference was intended to encourage conversation and we believe that happened. Later in this newsletter, we will also extend the conversation we began in Edmonton by asking you to consider publishing an article based upon your presentations in our Northwest Teacher Education Journal.

I believe our small organization can grow to vibrantly promote better teacher education at all levels. Our current NWATE leadership team agrees and, during this year, we will work to make that happen. As 2012 NWATE Conference Chair for the 2012 NWATE conference, I attempted to put together an exhaustive email list of all university-based people at every teacher education post-secondary institution in Western Canada and Northwest United States. During this year, we will attempt to finalize that list in our hope to build our organization because we believe, as a group, that NWATE holds the possibility to develop an active collegial community of practice that supports and extends teacher education locally and, perhaps, more globally. We encourage you to become more involved within this academic community and to share our work more widely. Please take an active interest by planning to attend our next conference at Washington State University in Spring 2013, by taking an active role in the leadership of promoting NWATE specifically and teacher education generally, by working to publish your work, and by inviting others to be part of our community of practice. Specifically, help us rally the community. If you know others who might be involved, please share our work more widely.

I encourage you to visit our new website at <http://nwate.com>. There is more information about the website on page 2 of this newsletter. Have a wonderful Fall and look forward to exciting times ahead!

Jim Parsons (jim.parsons@ualberta.ca)
NWATE President



Annual Business Meeting Notes

Because Jim was the only NWATE Executive at the 2012 Annual Conference, we held only a short general annual business meeting. We are relying on this newsletter and your responses to make decisions for our NWATE organization. We invite you to email Jim, who will share your thoughts with the remainder or the NWATE executive.

A number of changes have been made to our executive team. Our Secretary/Treasurer resigned, and we needed someone to assume that role. **Kathleen Cowin** of Oregon State University Cascades has agreed to step into that position. Kathleen is a teacher educator leader and solid supporter of NWATE. We also needed to replace **Andrew Kitchenham** as our NWATE Journal editor. I want to extend my personal thanks to Andrew Kitchenham, at the University of Northern British Columbia, for his stellar work as the editor of the *Northwest Passage: Journal of Educational Practices*. Andrew will be difficult to replace – he consistently put out two full quality issues of the journal each year. I have asked **Bonnie Stelmach**, from the Faculty of Education at the University of Saskatchewan, to co-edit our journal over the next year.

In speaking with others at the conference, we believe we should support a name change for the *Northwest Passage: Journal of Educational Practices* that is more straightforward and might better reflect our mandate as an organization. We would like you, as the group of conference attendees, to weigh in on a name change for our journal to be called the *Northwest Journal of Teacher Education*. Please email your thoughts to Jim and he will share these with the executive.

I hope these changes meet with the approval of the 2012 Conference attendees. Should you wish personally to take a more active role in the NWATE leadership team, please email Jim at jim.parsons@ualberta.ca.



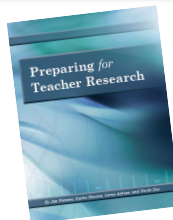
The website that was hosted at the University of Northern British Columbia had to shut down and we have found a Director of Communications to take over the role. Thanks to **Kurtis Hewson**, who is working at the University of Lethbridge, we will have a new web design that will go live on August 15, 2012 and we will try to make certain the website will remain current and might become a home for teacher educators across the Northwest United States and Western Canada. To introduce Kurtis, he has been a teacher, vice-principal and principal in several Alberta schools over the past 13 years. A 2010 ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award finalist, he is currently a Faculty Associate with the University of Lethbridge. Kurtis was also one of five elementary principals featured in the recent book on instructional leadership titled *Reflecting on Leadership for Learning* (2011).



Next year's conference will be at Washington State University in Pullman. Francene Watson will be the conference organizer and chair. Washington State University's Faculty of Education has graciously extended their invitation to host NWATE's annual conference. The date has not yet been set, but we are aiming for April or May 2013.

Special Conference Edition of the Journal?

If we get enough response from this year's conference attendees, we would like to put out a special edition of the journal that reflects the presentations at the conference. Please consider your presentation and pulling together an article for the journal. We may be contacting you individually about this possibility, but please be proactive in this opportunity to share your work more widely.



As part of your NWATE Conference package, you received a copy of the book *Preparing for Teacher Research* (2012). Thanks to Alberta's Provincial Government (Alberta Education), this book was shared and placed in every school in Alberta School. The purpose of this book is to help guide teachers as they conduct Action Research projects at their school sites. This book is an attempt to promote teacher professional learning by supporting site-based research, and is being offered at cost to anyone who wants a copy or copies (\$5 per book). Should you happen to want extra copies, please see the School Improvement Press website (<http://schoolimprovementpress.wordpress.com/>). Please note that Part 2 of the series, *Conducting Teacher Research*, will be published by October 2012. Its cost will also be \$5 per book.