

**Dates of Interest**

- 5/11/09 — HB 1986, Legislation establishing the mentor program is signed by Governor Gregoire
- Spring 2009 — Founder, Cyndie Shepard, meets with area Principals and Superintendents to discuss partnerships
- Summer 2009— Cyndie Shepard visits Legislators to update them on the program's progress.
- 9/23/09 — Over 400 WWU students began their peer mentoring course taught by Cyndie Shepard
- **10/27/09 — Compass 2 Campus kick-off at WWU. Over 700 5th graders from Whatcom and neighboring counties visit WWU's campus.**

Call Sherry Burkey at 360-650-3482 for more information.

## Peer Mentoring Program Becomes Law

**Compass 2 Campus** is a new pilot program at Western Washington University that will send WWU students, trained as mentors, to work with fifth-graders, encouraging at-risk youngsters to begin thinking about college as part of their future.

Modeled after an award-winning program co-founded by Cyndie Shepard at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, **Compass 2 Campus** is a privately funded pilot program established by the Washington State Legislature. Rep. Bob Hasegawa (D-Seattle) sponsored the legislation.



Gov Gregoire, with Prime Sponsor Rep Bob Hasegawa, signs HB 1986

“Many children in our state are in desperate need of help sorting through problems in their everyday lives; they may not have parents or a family structure that can provide them with guidance and support,” said Rep Hasegawa. “It’s in those cases that mentors really do play critical roles as they are in the unique position to positively influence kids in need.”

**Compass 2 Campus** strives to increase the number of low-income students, students of color and first generation college students in higher education.

Beginning in Fall 2009, more than 400 WWU student mentors will begin working with 700 fifth-graders from 10 elementary schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

**Compass 2 Campus** will add a grade level each year and eventually serve youngsters in fifth through twelfth grades. The program is a partnership with Whatcom Community College,

Skagit Valley College, Northwest Indian College and Bellingham Technical College. We will report on the preliminary findings from the pilot project to the legislature by December, 2010 with recommendations regarding the feasibility of expanding this program statewide.





## COMPASS 2 CAMPUS

### A note from the founder ...

As the co-founder of the very successful **Phuture Phoenix Program** at UW-Green Bay, I am delighted with the enthusiasm and interest I have found on the Western Washington University campus and in our communities in support of our new mentoring initiative, **Compass 2 Campus**. Our faculty, staff, and students have embraced this idea and have participated in planning committees involved in every aspect of the program from designing the trademark name, the logo, and the website, to many other preparations that will help establish the program's identity and success in our community.



*Cyndie Shepard*

We have also received much support from the local school districts where they have welcomed the idea of student mentors helping to build a pipeline to higher education through community service. This program hopes to benefit our young students by giving them real life connections to higher education, benefit our university students by connecting learning to life, and benefit the community by helping to inspire students to become lifelong learners, thus producing a stronger, better educated future workforce.

## Compass 2 Campus Fast Facts

### How is **Compass 2 Campus** different from other mentoring programs?

Many mentoring programs are focused on small groups of kids, or those who show some academic promise or interest.

**Compass 2 Campus** casts a much wider net, pulling in kids who may not have shown previous academic potential and showing them what's in store for kids who are motivated to do well in school.

### Will **Compass 2 Campus** replace any current WWU outreach programs in schools?

No. WWU students will continue to work in schools as student teachers and tutors.

### What will **Compass 2 Campus** mentors do?

Mentors, enrolled in a specially developed class open to all majors on the WWU campus, will work with kids in Whatcom and Skagit county schools. Mentors will lead tours of Western's campus, introducing fifth-graders to authentic college-level academic experiences and talking about how college can help them achieve their dreams. Beginning in the fifth grade, mentors will serve as role models and support the students as directed by classroom teachers.

### **Compass 2 Campus** Partnerships to date

- Whatcom Community College
- Bellingham Technical College
- Northwest Indian College
- Skagit Valley College
- Alderwood Elementary in Bellingham
- Blaine Elementary
- Central Elementary in Ferndale
- Ten Mile Creek Elementary rural Whatcom County
- Everson Elementary
- Nooksack Elementary
- Sumas Elementary
- Mary Purcell Elementary in Sedro-Woolley
- Washington Elementary in Mount Vernon
- Lucile Umbarger in Burlington