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The Washington State Contextual Teaching & Learning Consortium For Teacher Preparation

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**The Washington State Contextual Teaching & Learning Consortium
For
Teacher Preparation**

Project

The Center for Study and Teaching of At-Risk Students (CSTARS) located in the College of Education at the University of Washington has recently been awarded a contract from the USDOE which positions CSTARS and seven other universities and colleges and several school districts located throughout Washington State to form a statewide partnership intended to enhance attention to contextual teaching and learning in the state's pre-service teacher preparation programs. Particular attention will address goals 3 and 4 of the Washington State Learning Goals.

Contextual teaching is teaching that enables K-12 students to reinforce, expand and apply their academic knowledge and skills in a variety of in-school and out-of school settings in order to solve simulated or real world problems either alone or in a variety of group arrangements. Contextual learning occurs when students apply and experience what is being taught referencing real problems and needs associated with their roles and responsibilities as family members, citizens, students, and workers. Contextual teaching and learning emphasized higher level thinking, knowledge transfer across academic disciplines, and collecting, analyzing and synthesizing information and data from multiple sources and viewpoints.

The eighteen-month award is designed to accomplish and /or produce the following:

- **Summaries of Relevant Literature:** A series of talking papers addressing the need for attention to contextual teaching and learning by teacher preparation programs;
- **Teaching Strategies and Learning Activities:** A compendium of effective contextual teaching and learning strategies, activities, and curriculum materials for use with K-12 students;
- **Pre-service Teacher Education Models:** A compendium of effective pre-service teacher preparation models addressing K-12 contextual teaching and learning;
- **An Academy of Education Professors:** An ongoing Contextual Learning Academy of Professors of Education representing teacher preparation programs operating throughout Washington State;
- **An Academy of K-12 Practitioners:** An ongoing Contextual Learning Academy of K-12 Practitioners representing school-community-business partnerships located throughout Washington State.

The authority for this contract is the School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-239). This project is one of seven funded nationally as a joint initiative of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education and the National School-to-Work Office.

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