

# The Rural Education Center

## Newsletter



Summer/Fall  
2005

Jim Kowalkowski, Director

### News and Notes

Please share copies of this newsletter with those folks in your district and/or organization who might be interested in this information.

The Rural Education Center has been very busy with numerous projects, including:

- ◆ Partnering with OSPI to once again to offer a practitioners workshop for small and rural districts
- ◆ Testifying on the HECB's proposed changes to college admission standards
- ◆ Responding to several requests for assistance from member districts
- ◆ Providing input to OSPI regarding the Emergency School Repair Grants

Please do not hesitate to contact the Rural Education Center if we can be of assistance. We are here to serve you!

*Jim Kowalkowski*

### Special Thanks To Dr. Steve Dal Porto

Many of you are aware that Steve recently retired. Along with serving as the superintendent in the Lind School District, Steve has been a strong advocate for small and rural schools. He has served on the Rural Education Center Board for many years. Steve has also done an outstanding job serving as chairman for the WASA Small Schools Committee. His work with WASA on ensuring the high quality and relevance of the annual Small Schools Conference is just one example of the many ways in which Dr. Dal Porto has made a significant difference for the small and rural schools in Washington State.

Thank you Steve for a job well done! We wish you the best.

#### Websites to check out:

National Rural  
Education Association:  
<http://www.nrea.net>

The Rural School and  
Community Trust:  
<http://www.ruraledu.org>

### UPDATE: Emergency School Repair Grants

Several of our member schools are very interested in the Emergency School Repair Grants that OSPI will be awarding. While the Emergency School Repair bills that were introduced during the 2005 legislative session did not pass, there was strong support and funding for emergency school repair projects did get included in the final budget. Approximately \$2 million will be available for the 2005-07 biennia to fund emergency school repair projects. The maximum amount of each award will be \$100,000.

OSPI is currently working on the details of how the emergency school repair grant program will be administered. The latest information is that the application process will begin sometime late fall/early winter with grants hopefully to be awarded sometime in late winter/early spring 2006. Gary Miller, the Eastern Region Facilities Coordinator for OSPI, will be overseeing this program. Stay tuned for more updates and be on the look out for specific information from OSPI. Although there is no current information about these grants on the OSPI facilities website yet, there will be. Stay tuned for future updates.

This newsletter is published by the Rural Education Center with assistance from the College of Education at Washington State University in Pullman, WA. The Rural Education Center address is:

Mail: P.O. Box 950, Pomeroy, WA 99347  
Phone: 509-843-3393 Fax: 509-843-3046  
E-mail: [jkowalkowski@psd.wednet.edu](mailto:jkowalkowski@psd.wednet.edu)  
Website: <http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>

The 97<sup>th</sup> Annual  
National Rural Ed.  
Association  
Conference will be  
Nov. 7-9, 2005 in  
Tucson, Arizona

For more  
information visit:  
<http://www.nrea.net>

# The Rural Ed Center Newsletter

Phone: 509.843.3393

Fax: 509.843.3046

For more info on how to  
join the Rural Ed Center,  
contact:  
Lonnie Purcell  
ESD 101  
(509) 789-3800  
lpurcell@esd101.net

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://ruraledcenter.wsu.edu/>



Program support provided by:  
Ashley Herridge  
Washington State University  
Center for Educational  
Partnerships  
ashleyh@wsu.edu  
(509) 335-1988

## Rural Ed Center Meetings

The annual summer REC meeting was held during the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference. This was a joint meeting with the WASA Small Schools Committee.

All REC members and any other interested parties are invited to attend the REC meeting that will take place at the WASA Fall Conference in Pasco. The meeting time, date and location will be announced at a later date.

### WASA Small Schools Conference – March 13 & 14, 2006

Be sure to mark your calendars to attend the Small Schools Conference in Yakima next spring. The REC will also have a meeting during this conference. More details will be announced at a later date.

## Rural Ed Center Members

The following districts and organizations are current members of the Rural Ed. Center:

•Benge •Bridgeport •Castle Rock •Colfax •Colton •Columbia •Crescent •Creston  
•Damman •Dayton •Dixie •Easton •ESD 101 •ESD 112 •ESD 113 •ESD 123  
•Freeman •Great Northern •Harrington •Hockinson •Inchelium •Index •Kalama  
•Kahlotus •Keller •Kittitas •Klickitat •LaCrosse •Lind •Mansfield •Manson •Mary  
Walker •Meridian •Mill A •North Central ESD •Oaksdale •Onalaska •Onion  
Creek •Orchard Prairie •OSPI •Palisades •Palouse •Paterson •Pomeroy •Prescott  
•Queets-Clearwater •Quilcene •Quillayute •Republic •Ritzville •St. John/Endicott  
•Shaw Island •Skykomish •Starbuck •Summit Valley •Tekoa •Touchet •Valley  
•Waitsburg •Washtucna •Wilbur •Wishram

**Members: Thank you for your support. It is very much appreciated!**

## Announcing: Grant Opportunities for Rural Districts to Implement and/or Expand AP Programs

OSPI will be receiving federal dollars during the next three years from the Rural School Initiative to assist rural school districts (with a high percentage of low-income students) to implement and/or expand AP (Advanced Placement) offerings. Funds will be used to send teachers and administrators to summer workshops. OSPI will be offering one-day informational meetings regarding these grant opportunities on the following dates:

- October 18 in Olympia
- October 19 in Pasco

Specific information will be sent to districts in late summer/early fall. Check out <http://www.k12.wa.us/advancedplacement> for specific details and contact Larry Norwood at OSPI for more information.

## Update: REC/OSPI/WSU Small School Practitioners Workshop

OSPI partnered with the Rural Ed. Center and with Washington State University to offer another exciting Small Schools Practitioners Workshop on June 22, 23, and 24 in Vancouver, WA. The school districts that participated were Castle Rock, Easton, Klickitat, Shaw Island, and Wishkah Valley. These districts were able to focus their efforts on specific goals and projects with support from the REC, WSU, and OSPI. Plans are already underway for the June 2006 Small Schools Practitioners Workshop. Special thanks to Gayle Pauley and Barbara Quick at OSPI for assistance in securing grant funds that covered most of the costs of the workshop. Contact Jim Kowalkowski for more information regarding the June 2006 workshop.