

Campus Community Coalition

Summary of Activities June-October, 2005

Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) Project
Increasing student integration in and accountability to the neighborhoods in which they live.

Neighborhood Mediation Program

A program in which students and long term neighbors are trained in conflict resolution and mediation, and then work together to prevent and resolve neighborhood conflicts.

A partnership has been established with the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to implement this program, and the Neighborhood Mediation Work Group met in August to give input to the program design. The first set of trainings, provided by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, is underway. Two levels of free training are being offered this fall, a 3-hour "Dealing with Conflict" training and a 12-hour "Neighborhood Conflict Management" training. These will be offered again during winter quarter, as well as a 40-hour intensive "Basic Mediation" training.

As participants complete the training, the Coalition will continue to work with the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to support the Neighborhood Conflict Managers and Mediators in their roles, promote the use of conflict resolution in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods, and evaluate the impact of the program.

Neighborhood Service-Learning Projects

An initiative to increase student involvement in neighborhoods through WWU courses, neighborhood association projects, and other campus and community activities.

- Students in Dr. Werder's course "Civil Discourse as Learning Interaction" are participating in a series of neighborhood meetings and projects as a way to experience dialog across differences. Their focus is to engage in dialog with neighbors in an effort to find common ground.
- Students in Dr. Davis' course "Advocacy Through Media" are gathering information from their peers that will assist with promoting the "Off Campus U" online workshop.
- The Coalition is participating in planning an Earth Day (April 22) event for students to do restoration work in parks and on trails in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods. Other groups collaborating on the event are New Student Services; Residence Life; the Center for Service Learning; Bellingham Parks and Recreation; Learning, Environment, Action, Discovery (LEAD); and the neighborhood associations.

Neighborhood Community Service Alternative

A pilot project testing the feasibility and efficacy of the City Attorney's Office requiring people who are charged with Minor in Possession of alcohol (MIP) to complete 2 hours of neighborhood service as part of the 16 hours of required community service.

This project is currently being piloted in the York and Happy Valley neighborhoods, a result of a series of meetings with Coalition and City Attorney's Office staff, and representatives from the York and Happy Valley neighborhood associations. Participants are people who have received MIP

citations and who both live in AND were cited in those neighborhoods. The pilot will run Sept 21, 2005 through March 30, 2006, encompassing fall quarter plus a 90-day period during which community service must be completed.

Off-Campus U: A Road Map to Neighborhood Living

A short, on-line workshop for students moving into Bellingham's neighborhoods, including information on renting/leasing, laws and ordinances related to neighborhood living, hosting safe and legal parties, and being a good neighbor.

The Off-Campus U Work Group met in July, reviewed a draft of the course content, and made recommendations for content changes and ways to promote the course. The content has been revised, and the next step is to contract with a web developer to create the course in its web format. The groundwork is being laid for promoting the course with WWU Residence Life, the Off-Campus Housing Registry, local rental property owners and managers, and other campus and community organizations.

Other NEST Activities

- **Think Locally – Act Neighborly Educational Doorknockers.** Over 2,500 educational doorknockers were distributed in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods during the first several weeks of fall quarter by students and neighborhood association members. The doorknockers include information about getting to know your neighbors, having safe and legal parties, the Party Patrol, and upcoming neighborhood association meetings.
- **Neighborhoods Engaging with Students (NEST) table at Info Fair.** Ten neighborhood association members staffed a table at the Associated Students Information Fair to welcome students, educate them about Bellingham's neighborhoods and neighborhood associations, and provide information about being a good neighbor.
- **Sehome Neighborhood Association fall meeting.** Coalition staff and Association Students Vice President for Campus and Community Affairs facilitated a “get to know your neighbor” discussion with students and non-student neighbors at the Sehome Neighborhood general membership meeting in October. Integrating similar discussions into neighborhood association meetings in York and Happy Valley is being explored.
- **Let's Talk Forum – “WWU Student: Community Member or Just Passing Through?”** About 75 students and community members gathered on October 19th to discuss the impact of WWU students living in Bellingham's neighborhoods, including parties. Because of the great interest in the topic, plans for a follow up session are underway.

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Enforcement

Increasing enforcement of underage drinking laws, publicity of enforcement, and underage access to alcohol.

The Coalition's Enforcement Work Group met in late August to review and finalize collaborative plans for enforcement and publicity during fall quarter.

Bellingham Police Department

This fall the Bellingham Police Department enhanced enforcement of underage drinking and off-campus parties by operating the Party Patrol with the "party bus" on three weekends and new Liquor Law Emphasis Patrols on four weekends. The Liquor Law Emphasis Patrols placed 2-4 officers on foot and/or in vehicles primarily in the Sehome, York, and Happy Valley neighborhoods (moving to the Central Business District after midnight). Officers looked for parties, open containers, etc., and issued citations for any illegal activity they encountered.

Citations issued (September 16-October 31, 2005)						
	Minor in Possession	Drinking in Public	Disorderly Conduct	Furnishing to Minors	Urinating in Public	Other
Party Patrol (3 weekends)	82	15	34	5	9	6
Liquor Law Emphasis (4 weekends)	35	53	4	1	17	20
Total	117	68	38	6	26	26

WA State Liquor Control Board

The Liquor Control Board will continue to conduct compliance checks and Cop or Clerk operations, including a focus on the establishments that sell alcohol within a 2-mile radius of WWU.

The Northwest region of the Washington State Liquor Control Board has implemented a new systematic approach for determining which establishments will receive compliance checks. Establishments are now identified by random computer selection, and those that sell alcohol to minors are re-checked the following month. This new approach ensures appropriate follow up for establishments that were not in compliance, and that all other establishments are checked with equal frequency.

Enforcement Education Activities

Increasing the perception that underage drinking and noise laws are strongly enforced in Bellingham.

- Over 2,500 educational doorknockers with information about the Party Patrol were distributed in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods.
- About 374 first year students attended performances by Will Act for Change, a student peer education acting troupe. The performances addressed issues of alcohol misuse and sexual assault, and included scenes with dialog about the Party Patrol.
- A series of weekly "Is It Worth It?" ads were placed in the Western Front using Bellingham Police Department's citation data from the previous weekend's patrol. Each ad highlighted

a specific citation and its associated fine, what else could have been purchased for the same amount of money (e.g., ski passes, CD's, rent).

- An article regarding Bellingham Police Department's increased enforcement appeared in the Western Front. Articles were also placed in the York Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhood association newsletters, and the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission newsletter.

LateNight@WWU

Increasing availability of and student participation in late night activities on campus.

About 2500 students attended the fall line-up of four LateNight@WWU events that were held on campus during the first few weeks of the quarter. The majority of participants who completed surveys lived on campus and about 75% were freshman and sophomores.

The events were organized by the Wade King Student Recreation Center, Associated Students/Viking Union, WWU Athletics, and the student club Western Sound System Federation. LateNight@WWU is intended to provide fun, social activities in the late night hours as an alternative to off-campus parties, especially for first year students. It is the result of collaborative planning spearheaded by the Campus Community Coalition and includes WWU's Wade King Student Recreation Center, New Student Services, Associated Students, Residence Life, Athletics Department, Facilities, and Dining Services.

The LateNight@WWU Work Group met several times over the summer and held a "debrief" meeting in October to discuss the fall events: what went well, "lessons learned," and plans for the rest of the year and fall 2006.