

# Campus Community Coalition

## Summary of Activities

### June-October 2006

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

#### **Off-Campus WWU: A Student Road Map to Neighborhood Living**

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

There have been over 3,395 visits to the Off-Campus WWU website since its May launch. The most frequently visited sections are "Moving into Your New Place" and "Partying in Bellingham." Fall promotions for the site include distributing magnets on 3,000 doorknockers in the York, Sehome and Happy Valley neighborhoods; linking from the Off-Campus Housing, Student Life, and Legal Information Center websites; featuring articles and ads in the Western Front; and tabling in the Viking Union. Check out the website at [www.OffCampusWWU.com](http://www.OffCampusWWU.com).

#### **Neighborhood Community Service Alternative**

A project in which the City Attorney's Office requires people who are charged with Minor in Possession of alcohol (MIP) to complete 2 hours of neighborhood service as part of their community service requirement.

Based on the positive feedback from both participants and the neighborhood associations last year, the Neighborhood Service Alternative will continue in Happy Valley and York. The Sehome Neighborhood Association is also considering participating in the program. We expect more participants this year, due to a change in the referral criteria: last year people were referred if they both lived in and were cited in the neighborhood; now people living in the neighborhood are referred, regardless of where their citation was issued.

#### **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.

The Neighborhood Mediation Program is promoting conflict resolution and mediation as a way for students and neighbors to address conflicts. This fall's promotional strategies are posters, referral cards, ads in the Western Front, mailed postcards, and informal education and referral by people who completed Neighborhood Conflict Management and Mediation trainings last year.

#### **Neighborhood Service-Learning Projects**

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

Similar to last year, 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.

## Other NEST Activities

- **Let's Talk Forum – “Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices, and Neighborly Relations”**

The fall forum, held off-campus for the first time, drew about 60 students, community members and law enforcement personnel. Organized by the WWU Communications Department, the Associated Students Legal Information Center, and the Coalition, this forum provides a venue each quarter to discuss the issues facing students and long-term residents living together in Bellingham's neighborhoods.

- **Think Locally – Act Neighborly Educational Doorknockers.**

About 3,000 educational doorknockers were distributed in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods the week before fall quarter by 10 students, 14 neighborhood association members, and Coalition staff. The doorknockers include information about getting to know your neighbors, keeping parties safe and legal, possible alcohol-related citations, and upcoming neighborhood association meetings. They also promoted the Off-Campus WWU website with attached magnets.

- **“Connect with Your Neighbors” ads in the Western Front**

In an effort to reach more students, this fall the Coalition started running regular ads in the Western Front announcing neighborhood association meetings, work parties, and other events. The ads focus on the York, Sehome and Happy Valley neighborhoods.

- **Letter to Rental Property Owners**

In a partnership between the Coalition and the neighborhood associations in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley, a letter was sent to 957 rental property owners in those neighborhoods (317 in York, 275 in Sehome, and 365 in Happy Valley). The letter emphasizes that rental owners have a unique and important role in setting clear expectations for their tenants in encouraging them to be good neighbors. It reminds them of city ordinances regarding parking, litter, and noise and shares information about the Block Watch program, Crime Free Multi-Housing training, Neighborhood Mediation Program, and Off-Campus WWU website. It also includes a tip-sheet that can be distributed to renters.

- **Neighborhoods Table at Info Fair**

Once again neighborhood association members staffed a table at the Associated Students Information Fair to welcome students, educate them about Bellingham's neighborhoods, and encourage them to get involved in the neighborhood associations and other neighborhood activities. This year neighborhood representatives from Sehome, Happy Valley, York, and Silver Beach staffed the table.

## **Enforcement**

### **Increasing enforcement of underage drinking laws and publicity of enforcement.**

The Bellingham Police Department and Liquor Control Board continue enforcement of underage drinking and noise laws with support from the Coalition. This fall the Bellingham Police conducted Party Patrol or Liquor Law Emphasis Patrols every Friday and Saturday night between September 15 and October 30. The Liquor Control Board continues to conduct extra compliance checks at both on- and off-premise establishments within two miles of Western's campus.

Fall enforcement education strategies focus on enhancing student awareness regarding keeping parties small, safe, and legal, possible alcohol-related citations and their consequences, and being good neighbors. Educational activities include:

- 3,000 "Think Locally – Act Neighborly" doorknockers distributed in York, Sehome, and Happy Valley with information about alcohol-related citations.
- Placing weekly "Is It Worth It?" ads in the Western Front regarding alcohol-related citations and their consequences.
- Holding the Let's Talk Forum with students, neighbors, and law enforcement personnel.
- Promoting the Off-Campus WWU website, with its "Partying in Bellingham" and "How to be the Neighbor Everyone Loves" information.
- Articles in the Western Front and Associated Students Review regarding student alcohol use and enforcement issues.

## **LateNight@WWU**

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

Three very successful late night events were held during the first several weeks of fall quarter at the Wade King Student Recreation Center, Viking Union, and the Underground Coffeehouse. About 3,000 students attended the Recreation Center event, organized by Campus Recreation Services and the Athletics Department. Another 1,800 students attended the Viking Union event, organized by the Associated Students. Both events doubled their attendance from last year. Activities included inflatable jousting and sumo wrestling, concerts, movies, dancing, an improvisation show, and a \$2 taco bar and spaghetti feed. The Underground Coffeehouse in the Viking Union also launched its Friday night "Underground Music and Movies," with 70 students attending the first night.

For the new "Underground Music and Movies" series, the Underground Coffeehouse is extending its hours to 12:30 every Friday night. This new late-night program, a partnership between Dining Services, Associated Students Films, and the Coalition, is in response to the recognized need to have consistent late night offerings throughout the quarter in addition to the large events.

The expansion and continued success of LateNight@WWU is due to the continued collaboration among the Wade King Student Recreation Center, New Student Services, Associated Students, Residence Life, Athletics Department, Facilities, Dining Services, and the Coalition.