

Campus Community Coalition

Summary of Activities

November 2006 – February 2007

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.

The Coalition continues to promote the Off-Campus WWU website with posters, links from other relevant websites, WTA bus posters, and ads in the *Western Front*. The site consistently receives 400-500 visits per month, and the most frequently visited sections are "Moving into Your New Place" and "Partying in Bellingham." Check out the website at 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.

The Sehome Neighborhood Association began participating in the Neighborhood Service Alternative in January. The program is now operating in Bellingham's three neighborhoods with the most WWU student residents: York, Sehome, and Happy Valley.

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 continues to promote conflict resolution and mediation as a way for students and neighbors to address conflicts. Current promotional strategies include posters, referral cards for Bellingham Police officers, ads in the *Western Front*, a postcard mailing to all addresses in the York, Sehome, and Happy Valley neighborhoods, and posters in the WTA buses.

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" continue to participate in neighborhood meetings as a way to experience dialog across differences, and some have also facilitated the small group discussions at the Let's Talk Forum. 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”**
About 120 people—students, community members and law enforcement personnel—attended the winter forum. The quarterly forum provides a venue to discuss the issues facing students and long-term residents living together in Bellingham’s neighborhoods. The *Bellingham Herald* ran both an article and an editorial on the forum, providing some good coverage.
- **“Connect with Your Neighbors” ads in the Western Front**
In an effort to reach more students, the Coalition continues to run 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.

Enforcement

Increasing enforcement of underage drinking laws and publicity of enforcement.

The Bellingham Police Department, University Police Department, and Liquor Control Board continue enforcement of underage drinking and noise laws with support from the Coalition.

In addition, personnel from the Bellingham Police Department, University Police Department, and the Liquor Control Board have all participated regularly in the “Living Together in Bellingham” Let’s Talk Forum, which has contributed greatly to the forum’s success.

The Liquor Control Board continues to conduct extra compliance checks at both on- and off-premise establishments within two miles of Western’s campus. With Coalition support, an ID scanner was recently purchased which allows officers to efficiently check many IDs and quickly access information on any that appear to be falsified.

New data sharing arrangements have been made between the Bellingham Police Department and the Campus Community Coalition. Bellingham Police Department databases can now be easily queried for accurate and up-to-date data on alcohol related cases and arrests, by quarter and by neighborhood. Access to this data represents a huge step forward in the Coalition’s ability to evaluate its efforts and monitor the issue of underage drinking and loud parties.

LateNight@WWU

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

There have been several successful late night events Winter quarter. The Welcome Back Ball was held in the Beta/Gamma Residence Hall in January. The Laser Light Show was organized by Associated Students Special Events and was held at the Student Recreation Center, with 375 participants. In February Associated Students Pop Music organized a sold-out Neko Case concert, with 660 attendees.

In addition, the Underground Coffeehouse Music and Movies series continues to run every Friday night, averaging over 30 students attending each week, with Coffeehouse hours extended to 12:30 A.M. This ongoing 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 Residence Life shuttle has started running until 1:00 am on Friday nights to provide transportation for the Underground Coffeehouse Music and Movies.