

**WAMLE**  
Spring Conference 2010



**ALTERNATIVE ENERGY:  
POWERING MIDDLE LEVEL LEARNING**

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[www.wamle.com](http://www.wamle.com)

**Green River Community College**

**April 23, 2010**

**Rainier Middle School**

**April 24, 2010**








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APRIL 23 AND 24, 2010  
 Green River Community College and Rainier Middle School  
 Auburn, WA

**Friday, April 23, 2010**

Green River Community College

- 7:30 – 8:30 AM Registration
- 8:30 – 8:40 AM Greetings from the President Richard Rutkowski of GRCC
- 8:40 AM – Noon Rick Wormeli – Differentiated Instruction
- Noon – 12:45 PM Lunch with entertainment – St. Joseph’s Middle School choir
- 12:45 – 1:00 PM Representative Patrick Sullivan
- 1:15 – 3:00 PM Rick Wormeli – Differentiated Instruction
- 3:00 – 3:30 PM Jack Berckemeyer – The Status of Middle Level Education
- 3:30 – 4:30 PM Wine and Cheese Social with entertainment – Auburn High School Jazz Band

**Saturday, April 24, 2010**

Rainier Middle School

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-8:40 AM Greetings from Superintendent Kip Herren – Auburn School District
- 8:40 – 9:45 AM Jack Berckemeyer – Managing the Madness
- 10:00 – 11:10 AM Concurrent sessions – I
- 11:15 – 12:25 PM Concurrent sessions – II
- 12:30 – 1:15 PM Lunch with entertainment – Miller Junior High School Steel Drum Band
- 1:20 – 2:30 PM Concurrent sessions – III
- 2:30 – 2:45 PM Break
- 2:45 – 3:30 PM Christian Moore – Why Try? Overcoming Poverty, Violence and Failure
- 3:30 – 3:50 PM Closing remarks and door prizes

AUTHOR’S ROOM – 8:30 – 3:30 Rainier Middle School Library

RICK WORMELI  
GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

DOTTY – INSERT PHOTO AND WRITE-UP ABOUT RICK W. HERE  
RICK – INFORMATION FROM DIOCESE AS SPONSORS  
NAMES OF STUDENTS WHO WILL INTRODUCE RICK

ENTERTAINMENT  
FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2010

LUNCH WITH  
THE ST. JOSEPH'S MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR  
12:00 – 12:45 PM

RICK – INFORMATION ABOUT CHOIR

WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL  
WITH  
THE AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND  
3:30 – 4:30 PM

BEN – INFORMATION ABOUT BAND

EVERYONE – INFORMATION ABOUT ANY SPONSORS FOR SOCIAL

**RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL  
SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010**

**BEN - INSERT MAP OF RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL HERE**

AUTHORS' ROOM  
RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY  
8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

STEPHANIE – PROVIDE INFORMATION HERE

JACK BERCKEMEYER  
OPENING KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS  
8:40 – 9:45 AM

DOTTY AND RICK – INSERT PHOTO AND WRITE-UP ABOUT JACK HERE  
BEN – NAME OF STUDENTS WHO WILL INTRODUCE JACK

# OVERVIEW OF CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Room #	CONCURRENT SESSION I (10:00 - 11:10)	CONCURRENT SESSION II (11:15 -12:25)	CONCURRENT SESSION III (1:20 - 2:30)
303	Making History Relevant - Slyter	Making Math More Meaningful - Milne	
304	Brain Research - Talbert	Storypath - McGuire	Managing the Madness - Berckemeyer
305	Successful Strategies- Henneberg	Advisory Programs - Burgess & Jones	Outdoor PBL - Dunn, Graf & Ware
308	ELL in Literacy and Content – Garcia Slagle	Why Try - Moore	Assessment Techniques - Overman
309	Cyber-safety- Barnes, Hanwright, Keil, Lafond & Ludwigson	Reach for the Stars (NASA) - Knisely	Book Blogging – Knisely [in library?]
310	Global Awareness- Backlund, Backlund & Finke	ELL Students: What Teachers Need to Know- McCain	Global Issues - Strow

## STRANDS

	Classroom Management
	Standards-Based Instruction and Assessment
	Differentiated Instruction
	Energized Teaching
	Technology
	Engaging Youth in Global Issues

# CONCURRENT SESSION I

10:00 – 11:10 AM

Room 303

**“So what does this mean to me?”: Making History Relevant for Middle Schoolers**

*Eric Slyter*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: One of the most challenging things about teaching history is making it important to students. What do these events and people of the past have to do with our lives today?

Though important, history doesn't have to be just about dates and names. People of nearly all cultures and time periods had what many of us would recognize today as modern problems, with fascinating solutions borne out of cultural contexts. How can we highlight what is surprisingly familiar about the past? How do find a place for history in our lives now?

Room 304

**Title – Brain Research??**

*Ben Talbert*

Strand: Energized Teaching

**Description????**

Room 305

**Successful Strategies to Regain Energy, Focus, and Time to Teach in Every Classroom!**

*Susan Henneberg*

Strand: Classroom Management

Description: Your teaching is too important to lose valuable time to low-level misbehaviors, discipline issues, repeated requests and multiple warnings. By using these research-based, data-driven strategies and techniques, you will gain back 4-6 hours of valuable instructional time each week, and feel energized and refreshed. Although conflict is an essential part of growing up, good behaviors can be systematically taught at every grade level, behavior can be changed, and good discipline is only a matter of good timing. Students will appreciate the focused, respectful environment and feel empowered to take responsibility for their own behavior and learning.

Room 308

**Extending Academic Languages for ELLs in Literacy and Content Instruction**

*Ramona Garcia Slagle*

Strand: Differentiated Instruction

Description: This presentation will model using WA State ELD standards and Content Standards to extend academic language for ELL's in Literacy and Content Instruction. Research based strategies for making learning comprehensible for all language proficiency levels will be modeled and shared. This presentation will be interactive and use sentence frames to extend academic language. Participants will leave this presentation with practical applications that can be immediately implemented into Sheltered and Content area classrooms.

Room 309

**Cyber-Safety: What Can a Teacher Do?**

*Taylor Barnes, Kara Hanwright, Ashlee Keil, Delaney Lafond and Derek Ludwigson*

Strand: Technology

Description: Are you looking for teacher-friendly tools to address cyber-safety with your students? Evaluate online resources such as [staysafeonline.org](http://staysafeonline.org) and [netsmartz.org](http://netsmartz.org). Examine curricular materials developed by state and federal agencies. Brainstorm strategies for your classroom and school. Help create a school environment that is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all.

Room 310

**Amp Up the Global Awareness of Your Middle Level Learners Through Alternative Power Sources**

*Judy Backlund, Kari Backlund and Janet Finke*

Strand: Engaging Youth in Global Issues

Description: Participants will be actively plugged into the rationale, tools and resources to amp up the global awareness of their middle level learners through the following alternative power sources: partnerships between teacher candidates and middle level learners; service learning opportunities based on the Five Stages of Service Learning; meaningful and replicable "hands-joined" projects; exciting possibilities for a variety of global connections through established programs. Participants will try out, and explore for their own unique learning situations, collaboratively created resources that have empowered teacher candidates, middle level learners, and educators in the U.S. and in Southern Sudan.

## CONCURRENT SESSION II

11:15 AM – 12:25 PM

Room 303

### **M to the power of 4 = Making Math More Meaningful**

*Betty Milne*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: This hands-on workshop will cover math teaching strategies and assessment tools, covering topics of number sense, geometry, algebra, statistics and formative assessment strategies. Come out and have some math fun!

Room 304

### **What Are We Doing Today?: Engaging Reluctant Learners through the Storypath Approach**

*Margit McGuire*

Strand: Engaging Youth in Global Issues

Description: This session provides hands-on experiences to demonstrate the Storypath approach introducing the elements of setting, character and plot – the basic elements of the curriculum structure. Storypath has demonstrated success in engaging students of low socio-economic backgrounds in literacy and social studies that students often find disparate and far removed from their own experiences. The integrative problem-based learning presented through the plot of the story engages reluctant learners in powerful understandings while applying literacy skills in real-life contexts.

Room 305

### **Assessment Techniques for Targeted Learning**

*Janie Overman*

Strand: Standards-Based Instruction and Assessment

Description: The presentation will focus on assessment techniques that:

- Focus on standards-based instruction
- Are differentiated
- That allow students to be reflective and self-assess/monitor their progress towards learning targets
- Are authentic and meaningful
- Provide useful feedback to student and teachers

Room 308

**Why Try? New Approaches to Motivating Youth**

*Christian Moore*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: This dynamic national trainer will provide the audience with tools to answer the question “Why try in life?” Christian Moore will walk the audience through several practical methods to teach emotional intelligence and important life skills such as: anger management, problem solving, overcoming peer pressure, keeping laws and rules, building support systems, and having a vision of their future. This workshop will emphasize a strength-based approach to helping youth overcome their challenges using “multiple intelligences” methods that emphasize the youths’ learning styles, including visual analogies (pictures), music, and hands-on activities, to teach middlers in ways that they will understand and remember. This presentation is a must see for educators and educator leaders!

Room 309

**Reach for the Stars**

*Cindy Knisely*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: Two things that are often true about teenagers, they don’t want their parents hanging around school and they don’t like science. Learn how Key Peninsula Middle School got parents involved AND created science enthusiasts as the first NASA Explorer School in Washington State.

Room 310

**“Often Overlooked and Misunderstood: ELL Mid Level Students” – What Teachers Need to Know and Do**

*Terrance McCain*

Strand: Differentiated Instruction

Description: I will discuss the issues facing teachers of second language learners in the middle school classroom. Teachers are often at a loss as to how to effectively reach these students. ELL face the same difficulties as other mid level students but in addition to those difficulties they face language and cultural obstacles. With the ever increasing number of linguistically diverse students in the schools teachers are faced with unique challenges I will offer teachers some simple, straight forward ways to reach this population of students and make the mid level school experience more rewarding for both teachers and the ELL in the classroom.

LUNCH WITH THE MILLER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
STEEL DRUM BAND  
RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS  
12:30 – 1:15 PM

BEN- INFORMATION ABOUT BAND

CONCURRENT SESSION III  
1:20 – 2:30

Room 303

**Effective Advisory Programs ~ Tips, Tools, Techniques and Resources to Support YOUR Program.**

*Jan Burgess and Brian Jones*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: Creating and sustaining an atmosphere of advocacy in middle schools require more than just caring for your students and school. That's where Advisory comes in.

Advisory programs serve the social, emotional and intellectual needs of students. When well planned and executed, students and the entire school benefit.

We'll share critical components that support effective advisory programs, highlight Frequently Asked Questions, and together we'll consider the dilemmas you face with advisory.

Come preview Navigator 101, Sequim Middle School's award winning advisory program and leave with ideas and resources you can use.

Room 304

**Managing the Madness**

*Jack Berckemeyer*

Strand: Classroom Management

Description: **RICK – HAVE WE CONFIRMED THAT JACK WILL DO A SESSION?**

Room 305

**“Taking It To the Top” Outdoor Project-Based Learning**

*Rob Dunn, John Graf and Karen Ware*

Strand: Energized Teaching

Description: This presentation will focus on the positive impact outdoor education has had on student learning for alternative middle level students. The project has been integrated throughout the curriculum and has provided relevance for student learning and engagement.

Room 308

**Understanding the MSP**

*Ben Talbert*

Strand: Standards-Based Instruction and Assessment

Description: **BEN – NEED TO PROVIDE**

Room 309

**Book Blogging**

*Cindy Knisely*

Strand: Technology

Description: OMG. stay in touch with middle school readers by using a venue they love. Learn how book blogging using Google Sites has increased out-of-class reading participation.

Room 310

**Global Issues**

*Stephanie Strow*

Strand: Engaging Youth in Global Issues

Description: **STEPHANIE – NEED TO PROVIDE**

CHRISTIAN MOORE  
CLOSING KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
RAINIER MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMONS  
2:45 – 3:30

DOTTY – INSERT PHOTO AND WRITE-UP ABOUT CHRISTIAN HERE

BEN – NAME OF STUDENTS WHO WILL INTRODUCE CHRISTIAN

## CLOSING REMARKS AND DOOR PRIZES

DOOR PRIZES CONTRIBUTED BY....

**EVERYONE - LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS AND PRIZES**

NMSA MEMBERS  
DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE FOR YOUR NATIONAL  
OFFICERS – ESPECIALLY YOUR WEST REGION  
TRUSTEE

## CONCURRENT SESSION PRESENTERS

**Backlund, Judy:** Judy Backlund is a 30 year veteran teacher. She has been a classroom teacher, reading specialist, and ESL teacher, and now teaches Literacy Education at CWU. She has taught around the world and presented and facilitated training workshops locally, nationally, and internationally. She holds a Master's in Reading.

Central Washington University – Washington  
backlundju@cwu.edu

**Backlund, Kari:** Kari Backlund is currently in her 15<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. She spent 13 years teaching first grade and is currently teaching **Title One** remedial reading at Morgan Middle School. Kari has also taught early childhood and reading courses at CWU, and has served on a variety of teaching and learning teams at the school and district levels, **including the Sudan Project, teaming her students with a school district in Sudan.** Kari holds a Master's in Reading.

Morgan Middle School – Washington  
kbacklund@eburg.wednet.edu

**Barnes, Taylor:**

Central Washington University – Washington

**Berckemeyer, Jack:**

**Burgess, Jan:** Jan Burgess is a two term West Region Trustee to the National Middle School Board of Trustees. A retired middle school principal and former counselor, Jan consults nationally as part of NMSA's school improvement cadre. Jan is the author of two books, her first was published by NMSA in 2008 and highlights professional development activities that form metaphors for focused improvement. Her latest was published by ASCD in 2010 and is about the critical importance of teacher leadership in effective schools.

NMSA Trustee – Oregon  
NMSABoard@nmsa.org

**Finke, Janet:** Janet Finke, an Associate Professor of Literacy Education at CWU, earned a bachelor's degree from Washington State and a Masters and PhD from the University of Illinois. She has experience teaching at a variety of grade levels, supervising student teachers, providing professional development workshops, facilitating grade level team planning, and presenting at national and international conferences.

Central Washington University – Washington  
finkej@cwu.edu

**Garcia Slagle, Ramona:** Ramona Garcia Slagle is an educator with over 15 years experience as a bilingual teacher, Title 1 resource specialist, staff developer, and literacy coach. She partners with school districts and specializes in long-term sustainable professional development and curriculum planning. She has visited many classrooms modeling differentiated instruction for ELL's and coaching teachers in best practices. Ramona has worked with teachers at all grade levels, Pre-K through 12, as well as at the college level. She is a successful academic language consultant who shares her enthusiasm and expertise with administration leaders, coaches, teachers, and students around the country.

Academic Language Consultant Konsult Garcia Slagle, LLC – Washington  
rgslagle@hotmail.com

**Graf, John:** John Graf has been a middle level educator for 17 years. He has taught a number of subjects and has had great success with marginal students. For the past 3 years, he has designed and delivered **Problem-Based Learning** instruction at the Discovery Middle Level Learning Center on CWU's campus.

Morgan Middle School – Washington  
jgraf@eburg.wednet.edu

**Hanwright, Kara:**

**Henneberg, Susan:** Susan Henneberg has been teaching and training for 30 years. She is particularly experienced with at-risk populations, and has developed programs for adult literacy, study skills, technology integration and project-based interdisciplinary curriculum. She currently teaches at a middle college high school located at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada.

Truckee Meadows Community College Magnet High School – Nevada  
hennebergs@sbcglobal.net

**Knisely, Cindy:** Cindy Knisely is the Key Peninsula Middle School NASA Explorer School Family Outreach Coordinator. **She currently teaches 7<sup>th</sup> grade Literacy and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Mission Specialist. Through the NASA program Cindy creates activities centered on “Mission Specialists” which ranges from robotics to rocketry. Cindy is the recipient of the 2009 Stanley O’McNaughton Golden Apple Award.**

Key Peninsula Middle School – Washington  
kniselyc@psd401.net

**Lafond, Delaney:**

Central Washington University – Washington

**Ludwigson, Derek:**

Central Washington University – Washington

**Milne, Betty:** Betty Milne has been a math department head, administrator, Director of Middle School Education, and Superintendent in British Columbia, as well as an international presenter and author of math text books. She is now retired and is keeping her finger in education as a math consultant. Betty has presented at many NMSA conferences as well as the Middle Essential Conference.

Math Consultant – British Columbia  
bettymilne@shaw.ca

**McCain, Terrance:** Terrance McCain is an associate professor in the Department of Language, Literacy and Special Education where he teaches Bilingual Education and English as A Second Language courses. Most, but not all, of his students are pursuing their endorsement in BIL/TESOL. Before coming to CWU he was an associate professor of Middle Grade Education at Western Kentucky University where he taught middle grade foundations, methods, and student teaching. Before entering university teaching he was a middle grade ESL teacher in New Mexico for ten years.

Central Washington University  
mccaint@cwu.edu

**McGuire, Margit:** Margit E. McGuire is Director and Professor of Teacher Education at Seattle University and a former president of the National Council for the Social Studies. She is the recipient of the Washington Award for Excellence in Teacher Preparation and has presented nationally and internationally on topics related to social studies. She is the author of the Storypath Program and is engaged in a number of research projects on the Storypath approach both in Seattle, USA and Sydney, Australia.

Seattle University - Washington  
mmcguire@seattleu.edu

**Moore, Christian:** Christian Moore grew up in the Washington, D.C. area in a family of twelve children. By the second grade, Christian had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, conduct disorder, and severe learning disabilities. Despite overwhelming obstacles, Christian rose from special education to receive a master's degree in social work. Today he is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

WhyTry Program – Utah  
www.whytry.org

**Overman, Janie:** Janie Overman is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics and science teacher at Fairhaven Middle School in Bellingham, WA. She has taught for 12 years total with 9 years at the middle school level. Janie has a BA in Elementary Education and Secondary Mathematics as well as a Masters Degree in Special Education.

Fairhaven Middle School – Washington  
janie.overman@bellingshamschools.org

**Slyter, Eric:** Eric Slyter, Director of Knights of Veritas, has been actively researching medieval history, specifically focusing on aspects of the knight, since 1993. Eric founded Knights of Veritas in 2002 after recognizing the need for quality educational services specializing in the middle ages for schools and libraries. Knights of Veritas became a non-profit educational charity in 2006 with the mission of bringing the Code of Chivalry to a modern audience. Knights of Veritas has brought its message of Chivalry and amazing historical facts to thousands of families throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Knights of Veritas - Washington  
info@knightsofveritas.org

**Strow, Stephanie:** **Need information**

**Talbert, Ben:** **Need information**

**Ware, Karen:** Karen Ware has taught marginalized students at the high school and middle school level for the past 7 years. **Developing Problem-Based Learning curriculum for at-risk middle school students, she piloted a supplemental Language Arts Program. She is now an educator at the Discovery Middle Level Learning Center on CWU's campus.**





## Application for Board Member-at-Large

Members of the Washington Association for Middle Level Education (WAMLE) are teachers, administrators, parents, social workers, counselors, college students, university personnel, elected and appointed officials of state government, students and other individuals interested in understanding the development of young adolescents. As an affiliate of the National Middle School Association, the purpose of WAMLE is to advocate for the general improvement of education for middle level students in the State of Washington. The duties of Board Members-at-Large are to assist the officers in conducting the business of the Association, to attend all Board meetings, to plan and participate in all activities sponsored by the Association, and to communicate regularly with their constituencies. Applications will be accepted through May 12, 2010. (Electronic version is available through the WAMLE website.)

For further information talk to a current board member or visit our website at [www.wamle.com](http://www.wamle.com).

### Contact Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Professional Role:

\_\_\_\_\_ Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_ Teacher

\_\_\_\_\_ University/College Educator

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: Please specify \_\_\_\_\_

### Years of experience in middle level education:

\_\_\_\_\_ 0 – 5 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 6 – 10 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 11 – 15 years

\_\_\_\_\_ 16 – 20 years

\_\_\_\_\_ more than 20 years

Professional Qualifications: On a separate sheet, describe your professional experiences in middle level education. (Please note: You are limited to 200 words.)

On a separate sheet, describe why you want to serve as a Board Member-at-Large for WAMLE. (Please note: You are limited to 100 words.)

CONFERENCE AND SESSION EVALUATION FORMS: **BEN – DO YOU HAVE THESE?**