



## 2011 STATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

### **'Educating the Whole Child' Award**

For promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged

### **Tumwater High School Staff**

Scott Seaman, Principal  
Tumwater School District

Tumwater High School is committed to ensuring every student meets graduation requirements and is prepared for life beyond high school. The Tumwater staff, guided by Principal Scott Seaman, keeps a focus on the whole child and clearly has a willingness to do whatever it takes to help every child succeed. A clear example of this dedication and commitment is the implementation of a support and intervention program on their campus called CORE/FLEX.

CORE/FLEX is a time build into their regular school day that provides support and rewards to all students for academic achievement. This program is aimed at reducing failure and increasing learning opportunities for all students. C.O.R.E. stands for Counting on Reading Excellence and is a support structure within the school day for any students with D or F grades. These students are assigned to a CORE or CORE/FLEX time and receive an additional period of time five days a week for instructional support and tutoring. The program is very responsive to the students' needs as the kids are assigned and reassigned to CORE groups every three or four weeks.

CORE/FLEX is not just for struggling students. It is specifically designed to provide increased learning opportunities for students on track and excelling as well. These students have earned the responsibility to use FLEX time to meet their own needs. Students can access teachers on campus for additional help, attend a guided study hall, access computer labs, access the career center, meet in small study groups, or attend an AP seminar. FLEX means they have earned the privilege to make their own decisions on how to best use this time to meet their individual learning needs.

The program is only in its second year of implementation. When the program began, they had approximately 419 students in CORE. By the spring of the same year, they had decreased that number by more than 50%. In addition, at the end of the first year of implementation, Tumwater High School had 121 fewer seniors failing any courses at the end of the first semester, as compared to the previous year.

While the Tumwater staff is very pleased with their results, they are continuing to refine and expand the program. In addition to CORE and FLEX opportunities for

kids, the staff is looking at ways to provide a myriad of other supports to students during the school day without pulling them from instructional time.

According to Enumclaw High School Principal, Jill Burnes, most impressive is Tumwater High School's willingness to selflessly share their strategy and success with others and encourage them to launch a program of their own. Principal Scott Seaman and his committed staff certainly embody the spirit of the 'Educating the Whole Child' Award with their strong dedication to supporting and rewarding all students for academic achievement.