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This fall, the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences is showing up all over Washington. This issue brings you to a few of those places, and the stories of the people behind the work.

Washington's Teacher of the Year Is a Coug



WSU Tri-Cities and College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences alum Kori Cannon has been named Washington's 2027 State Teacher of the Year. The

Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction announced the honor October 10 at its annual Educator of the Year ceremony in Olympia.

Cannon teaches kindergarten to multilingual learners at Westgate Elementary in the Kennewick School District. She started there as a substitute in 2010 and had her own classroom two years later. In 16 years, she has taught students from 22 countries, building their confidence and independence, honoring their cultures, and working side by side with their families. That family partnership work earned Westgate national recognition from Johns Hopkins University's National Network of Partnership Schools, and she is credited with transforming Westgate's kindergarten home visit program. On the way to the state title, she earned a Tri-City Crystal Apple Award and was named ESD 123 Regional Teacher of the Year.

Cannon now represents Washington in the running for National Teacher of the Year.

[See the press release](#)

CESHS WSU Tri-Cities Names Kennewick School District Community Partner of the Year



The district that produced Washington's Teacher of the Year has also named the college its 2026 Community Partner of the Year. Kennewick School District honored the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences at WSU Tri-Cities for strengthening teacher preparation, professional learning, and student career pathways.

The partnership runs deep. Each year, up to 80 WSU Tri-Cities teaching candidates train in Kennewick schools. Park Middle School became a Teaching Laboratory School last March, and candidates there rotate through 25 classrooms in their second semester. Paraeducators can earn teaching degrees through the Alternative Route program without leaving their Kennewick jobs, and Kennewick high school graduates can start toward the classroom through the Teaching Bridge Pathway.

It runs both ways. Faculty and district educators collaborate on research and curriculum in bilingual education, special education, and STEM, and about 20 Kennewick administrators run mock interviews with graduating teaching candidates every semester. John Mancinelli, academic director for the college at WSU Tri-Cities, accepted the award at the district's all-staff assembly, saying it "tells us that we are on the right track."

[Read the full story](#)

Two Trailblazers, One Lasting Gift



Sue Durrant and Jo Washburn spent their WSU careers fighting for women's athletics, years before and long after Title IX. Washburn directed women's athletics from 1965 to 1982 and founded WSU's Sport Management program in 1984. Durrant coached volleyball and basketball and helped lead the push for equity. Both are in the WSU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Together they placed more than 1,000 student interns, and it bothered them that so many of those internships were unpaid. So they created the Sue M. Durrant and Joanne R. Washburn Endowed Internship in Cougar Athletics, funded through a gift of real estate. With the sale of Washburn's home, the fund is now open, and the first student applications are under review. The next generation of Sport Management students, will benefit yet again from the impact of Durrant and Washburn.

Stay tuned for more in upcoming issues about the lasting impact of Durrant and Washburn on the College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences.

[More from the WSU Foundation](#)

Methods Workshop: From Chatbots to Workflows

Generative AI is everywhere. Using it well in research is a different skill. The Learning and Performance Research Center's 13th annual Methods Workshop took that on directly, with Christopher Runyon of the National Board of Medical Examiners leading hands-on training in building AI into research workflows: prompt engineering, APIs, agentic systems, and application development.

The room reached well past the college. Participants came from colleges and offices across WSU, including the Office of Institutional Research, along with faculty and graduate students from the University of Washington. The guiding idea: AI is only useful in research when the work stays reliable, transparent, and aligned with human purposes.

[Read more about the event](#)

Alumni Impact: A Mouse for the House

In 1960, a first-year third-grade teacher at Mercer Crest Elementary on Mercer Island brought a few mice into her classroom of 33 students. They came from her husband's genetics research at the University of Washington. Carol Raney's students fed the mice and cleaned their cages, and when a litter arrived, four lucky families took one home. The Seattle Times covered it that spring.

Sixty-six years later, the paper went back. Raney is 90, and her former students still call that year their favorite; several made the trip to her Bainbridge Island home this August. Before any of it, she was a Cougar: crowned May Queen and

elected to Phi Beta Kappa at WSU, she followed her parents into teaching. The story's author was one of those third-graders.

[Read the full story](#)

Tell your story. Expand our story.

Have a story to share, reach out! Whether you're a student, professor, administrator, alumni, parent, or simply a fan of the College, we want to hear from you! Share stories via our [Story Hub](#).

WSU College of Education, Sport, and Human Sciences

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