

UPCOMING COALITION MEETING

Friday, November 16  
11:45 — 1:30 pm  
St. Luke's Health  
Education Center



# Coalition Update

SUMMER 2007

## Coalition Receives National Award

The WWU—Bellingham Campus Community Coalition was recently honored with two National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) awards recognizing outstanding programs and innovative services in higher education.

NASPA, the nation's leading voice for student affairs administration, policy, and practice, promotes the commitment of student affairs in educating the whole student and integrating student life and learning. The NASPA Excellence Awards program was created to recognize the contributions of its members who are transforming higher education through outstanding programs, innovative services, and effective administration.

The Coalition won the NASPA Gold Award in the category of Off-Campus, Commuter, Non-



traditional, Graduate, Professional and related programs. The Coalition also won the prestigious NASPA Grand Silver Award, which is selected from among Gold Medal winners in all nine categories.

Dr. Kunle Ojikutu, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Special Assistant to the President for Diversity, and Maggie Feeny, Prevention and Wellness Services Grants Coordinator, represented the Coalition at the NASPA meeting in Florida this April. Maggie

presented a poster display showcasing the many programs and activities the Coalition has spearheaded, and Dr. Ojikutu accepted the Grand Silver Award on behalf of the Coalition.

Many thanks to Coalition members for your commitment to the Coalition's mission and active participation in its projects! ☺



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# “Let’s Talk!” Brings People Together



**“The different viewpoints and ideas were very enlightening and valuable. Having officers there offered a good viewpoint that is not often heard.”**

—WWU student

**“The students do care.”**

—Long-term resident

**“Students are interested in being effective members of our community.”**

—Law enforcement personnel

During the 2006–2007 academic year, the Coalition partnered with the WWU Communications Department to host quarterly Let’s Talk forums. The theme of the forums, “Living Together in Bellingham: Student Parties, Enforcement Practices and Neighborly Relations,” allowed students, long-term residents, and law enforcement personnel to talk together, rethink stereotypes, and deepen their understanding of each others’ perspectives.



More than fifty people attended each forum, during which students from the Communications Department facilitated small group discussions about the issues that interfere with students and long-term community members living together in Bellingham’s neighborhoods and how those issues could be addressed.

Law enforcement personnel from the Bellingham Police



Department, University Police Department, and Liquor Control Board clarified enforcement policies and common misconceptions about alcohol-related citations. Many students took advantage of the open format to ask candid questions of the officers.

The feedback from forum participants has been very positive. When asked what they had learned from the forum, participants offered the following comments:

- *Perspective. I was exposed to just how many sides there are to every issue brought up.*
- *Communication within communities is very important for civil relationships.*
- *This forum is an excellent means for facilitating conversation and community building.*

Participants have suggested partnering with neighborhood associations

to hold the forums in specific neighborhoods, thereby bringing a “localized” focus to the discussion. The Coalition staff is exploring this idea with Communications Department faculty and neighborhood association leaders.



Thank you to Dr. Carmen Werder, Korry Harvey, and Paul Bingham of the WWU Communications Department, student facilitators, and Coalition members who participated in this year’s Let’s Talk forums. All members are invited to attend future forums! ☺

# Survey Says... Members Voice Their Thoughts

As we complete the final year of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism grant, we are examining the structure and effectiveness of the Coalition. At the spring meeting we distributed a short survey asking for members' input on several key areas of Coalition functioning (it was also sent to Coalition members who did not attend the meeting). Forty-five surveys were returned and members' responses will be used to improve our efforts.

Most respondents felt the Coalition was effective in these areas:

- **Membership:** 74% felt the Coalition is effective in recruiting, orienting and involving new members. In addition, 91% felt that the Coalition has strong relationships with key individuals and groups on and off campus.
- **Communications:** 86% felt that current communications were strong within the Coalition; however, 21% did not agree that the Coalition "widely publicizes its activities and accomplishments."
- **Meetings:** 95% said that meetings are run effectively.

- **Mission and goals:** 81% felt that members share a common understanding of the Coalition's mission, that the mission is used to guide the goals, and that the Coalition is helping to reduce student alcohol misuse.

- **Management:** There was agreement (83%) that the Coalition's decision-making process, structure, and planning and implementation processes are effective and that individual members are recognized for their contributions.

- **Almost all the respondents (89%) supported the continuation of quarterly general meetings, and many (42%) would like more frequent workgroup meetings.**

Members' suggestions for improving the Coalition:

- Continue and expand the focus on neighborhood issues.
- Increase local publicity regarding the Coalition and its work.
- Increase focus on responsible consumption and reducing demand [for alcohol] vs. supply.
- Clarify the structure and purpose of the different parts of the Coalition.

We welcome any further comments about what you think is working well and ways to improve. Please contact Coalition Coordinator Lara Welker at 650-6863 or [lara.welker@wwu.edu](mailto:lara.welker@wwu.edu).

Thank you for your input and continued participation with the Campus Community Coalition. Your dedication drives this work! ☺

## Funding Update

The Coalition recently received the news that the grant proposal submitted to the Department of Education was not funded. Although our application was ranked 31 out of 128 applications from across the country, only the top 17 applications received funding.

Our current National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism grant will support Coalition staffing until February 2008, and we continue to explore ways to sustain the Coalition. ☺

## Thank You

The Coalition presented certificates of appreciation to the following student members who are graduating:

- Elliott Smith, York Neighborhood Association Board;
- Gus Zadra, contributor to Off-Campus WWU website and Let's Talk;
- Nate Panelo, Associated Students VP for Activities;
- Kevin McClain, Associated Students VP for Campus and Community Affairs;
- Mark Iozzi, Associated Students President;

...along with other members who are leaving the Coalition:

- Jim DeGolier and Emily Farnon of the Straight Talk About Responsibility (STAR) Task Force;
- Ian and Patty Relay, who recently sold the World Famous Up & Up Tavern;
- Chief Jim Shaw who is retiring from the WWU Police Department this summer.



*Emily Farnon, Jim DeGolier, and Patty Relay receive certificates of appreciation.*

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY COALITION

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### NEXT COALITION MEETING

Friday, November 16  
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Education Center

### OUR MISSION

*The WWU–Bellingham Campus Community Coalition was established in 1999 by WWU President Karen W. Morse and Bellingham Mayor Mark Asmundson to promote working relationships and communication between the campus and community by striving to enhance shared responsibility, prevent and address problems related to student alcohol misuse, and contribute to the health and safety of the entire community.*