

WAETAG

Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted

WAETAG Newsletter

Fall 2015

www.waetag.net

In This Issue

[Speed Lessons](#)

[WAETAG Summer Scholarships](#)

[WAETAG Board](#)

[WAETAG Mission Statement](#)

[President's Message](#)

[REGISTER NOW for the 2015
WAETAG Conference](#)

[Keynote: Ian Byrd](#)

[Keynote: Lori Comallie-Caplan](#)

[Conference Venue: Hotel Murano](#)

[New HCP Document Handbook](#)

[The Importance of Parent Advocacy
Groups in Gifted Education](#)



[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Speed Lessons Return by Popular Demand!



You've heard of speed dating?

Dear (Contact First Name),

President's Message

Kari DeMarco



Picture this: a hayseed farmer, wheat stalk sticking out his mouth, rocking back and forth on his cowboy boots, thumbs tucked under his suspenders with pride. He's finally made it to the fair, and the judges are mightily impressed by his cattle.

That's going to be me! Ok, I'm not a farmer, I'm not male, and I seldom wear suspenders. Oh, and WAETAG is not really a fair, and our speakers are not cattle. It's actually a terrible metaphor. But it is a pretty good picture of how proud I am to

present our 2015 conference to you this October!

Our theme is "Bulk Up Your Toolkit," and we have designed it to please those of you who said you want to walk away with Monday-ready lesson plans and ideas. You asked for a little less theory and a lot more practical tools. So that's what we've got for you!

Our breakout sessions have something for all grade levels, all experience levels, all kinds of HiCap formations, for teachers, counselors, administrators, etc. We also have asked our presenters to let us know if they will have interaction in their session or mostly sit-and-get, and tried to lean toward those with "a little less talk and a lot more action." This, too, is in response to your surveys.

We have two fabulous keynote speakers lined up: Ian Byrd and Lori Comallie-Caplan. Both of these keynoters will bulk up your toolkit with well-researched, front-lines-tested ideas. But they will also spark your creative juices and warm your heart.

Working with gifted kids is a joy and a challenge. They need a lot of nurturing to grow to their full potential. Please join us at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma this October 16th and 17th. Bring a friend or three. We want to provide you with some ideas that will make you want to rock back on your heels, tuck your thumbs under your suspenders, and burst with pride at the growth going on because of your care and attention. [Register now!](#)

Well we're going to again have speed lessons at our conference! Come with a tried-and-true lesson, tip or strategy that you would like to share - quickly! And be ready to gather some from others to take away with you. You can bring about 10 copies of the written up lesson plan if you like, or just bring the idea in your head. No muss, no fuss. We will go around in a job-alike circle and share some of our most successful ideas. It's fast, fun, and YOU get to be acknowledged for the expert that you are, and hear from your expert colleagues, too. BEEP BEEP!

WAETAG Summer Scholarships

Vicki Edwards

The WAETAG Summer Scholarship Committee received 29 unique and compelling applications for the 2015 scholarship. Two young ladies were selected as recipients this year.

Samantha Tien participated in the UW Summer Challenge Programs with a focus on Creative Thinkers, Writers and Artists. These camps included a lot of freewriting activities, including strategies to generate more creative and original ideas in a small amount of time. She also engaged in exercises to strengthen her creative thinking. One of Samantha's goals when applying for the scholarship to attend the UW program was to learn to be more open minded. She expressed that these programs met her expectations.

In her thank you note, Samantha explains, "The reason why I was able to attend these two summer programs was because of the WAETAG scholarship. I believe that I will carry this first scholarship experience as I enter for more competitions and/or interviews."

The second scholarship winner, **Kaylee Wolfington**, attended Cougar Quest 2015 in Pullman, Washington. Watch for her remarks in the next WAETAG newsletter.

These two young ladies set the



October 16 & 17
Hotel Murano
Tacoma, WA

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

WAETAG Conference Keynote: Ian Byrd

Roger Fisher

I am very excited by this year's WAETAG Keynote speaker! As a classroom teacher and staff development consultant, I have attended many professional conferences and listened to dozens of gifted experts share their perspectives. I always appreciate a fresh take on differentiation or a new idea for creative problem solving, and I always enjoy learning more about the complexities of gifted learners. This year's speaker is all of this and more.



Ian Byrd

Ian Byrd is a classroom teacher and blogger with 30,000 followers. The teachers in my district benefit from his monthly newsletter, [Byrdseed](#). I find his ideas to be engaging, original, relevant, and easy to implement.

I appreciate the fact that Ian is gifted himself, and he has many life experiences outside of education. I like his enthusiasm, sense of humor and dedication to gifted education.

A great keynote speaker who embodies the conference theme and brings practical ideas to improve our practice is not one to miss. Mark your calendar now and join me in welcoming Ian Byrd this October.

WAETAG Conference Keynote: Lori Comallie-Caplan

Sue Wilson-Schmitz

I was fortunate enough to have been trained in SENG Model Parent Group Facilitation by this year's internationally known Friday night keynote and Saturday breakout speaker Lori Comallie-Caplan. It's safe to say that Lori knows her stuff! Parents, educators, administrators, physicians and mental

bar high and continue to inspire others with their passion to extend learning beyond the academic school calendar.

Following strict guidelines for scholarship application as well as creating a concise and convincing argument for the funds are challenging for any writer. For all who applied this year, thank you for your effort and dedication to learning. Please check the WAETAG website next January and consider applying for the 2016 Summer Scholarship

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health professionals will not want to miss her "Getting out of our Heads and into our Hearts: Nurturing the Social Emotional Needs of our Gifted," "Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of the Gifted" and "Twice Exceptional: Know Me, Understand Me, Educate Me" presentations.

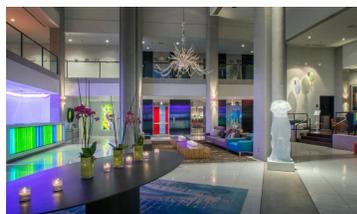


Lori Comallie-Caplan

Lori comes to us from New Mexico, not only as a parent and grandparent of gifted children, but as an inclusion music teacher, a special education counselor, an IEP specialist who crafted individual educational plans for the gifted, a Licensed Master Social Worker and Licensed Educational Diagnostician with a Master's Degree in Psychological Counseling. She was the Gifted Endorsement Teacher for New Mexico State University, and, along with a group of other teachers and administrators for the gifted in New Mexico, wrote and received a Jacob J. Javits Grant and started three collaborations with the three major universities to provide online and face to face gifted classes. Ms. Caplan became a SENG Master Facilitator, as well as a SENG Model Parent Group Facilitator Trainer, and spent six years on the SENG board, including as president. After retiring from the school system, she opened her own practice evaluating and counseling the gifted of all ages. Her passion lies in her work with the gifted and helping parents, educators, administrators, physicians and mental health providers to understand the unique social-emotional characteristics of the gifted. There are few speakers who can speak to all the various professionals who serve the gifted.

Beautiful Hotel Murano Selected for 2015 WAETAG Conference

Shelley Seslar



We are so happy to once again partner with the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, WA for the October 2015 Conference. Book early to get our conference rate, an excellent bargain! Hotel Murano, at 1320 Broadway, is ideally located in the heart of downtown Tacoma and the epicenter of the American glass art movement. Beautiful art glass

installations are spread throughout the hotel itself, and tours are available. Check out the Tacoma Art Museum and Museum of Glass, then experience glassblowing first hand at Tacoma Glassblowing Studio.

Hotel Murano is a 4-star hotel rated #1 for business by Travelocity of all Tacoma hotels. The rooms at Hotel Murano are all a treat of relaxation and comfort. All rooms include the following luxury amenities:

- * 24-hour fitness room access
- * 24-hour business center access
- * 24-hour room service access
- * LCD flat panel televisions & Spotify channels
- * Comfy beds with pillow-top mattresses
- * Plush robes
- * Pet-friendly rooms (fee required)
- * In-room Torrefazione coffee and Steven Smith Teas
- * In-room safe
- * High-speed wireless Internet access
- * Parking - valet (\$19 per night, plus tax) or self (\$16 per night, plus tax)

Close by, Sixth Avenue between Sprague and Alder is a truly eclectic part of Tacoma, in the best possible way, with coffee shops, shopping,

ESD 121
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Visit our [website!](#)

WAETAG Mission Statement

WAETAG was formed by educators dedicated to the improvement of educational opportunities for gifted students, by strengthening services to and providing information for professionals serving these students in all settings. Toward that goal, WAETAG has

fantastic restaurants, clubs, outdoor art, music, and record stores. Art, food, culture, nature...what greater inspiration is there? Check out our conference venue at [Hotel Murano](#) for more information about the pampering and fun to expect during your stay.

The New HCP Online Document Handbook Is Available NOW!

Charlotte Akin



The HCP Online Document Handbook is currently available on the [WAETAG's homepage](#) and on the [University of Washington's Robinson Center website](#).

This was a joint project of WAETAG and the University of Washington. The purpose of the Handbook is to give districts a look at sample documents for running their programs - for everything from notification of testing opportunities to appeals to program descriptions. Because the documents are in Word, districts can copy, paste, and personalize for their own needs. Also available in pdf, one can always go back and look at original documents.

The documents are from districts around the state, as well as some that were created to meet the new WACs. You can look at links to district web sites to find other details about how districts, large and small, do the business of Highly Capable Programs.

There will be a breakout at our fall conference to introduce the Handbook to you further.

The Importance of Parent Advocacy Groups in Gifted Education (and Why Parents Should Stay Fired Up)

Sue Wilson-Schmitz, NWGCA



In Washington State, we are fortunate to have a three armed advocacy model in place for our gifted students. The first group to be formed was the parent advocacy group: Northwest Gifted Child Association (NWGCA), in existence now for over 52 years. Twenty years later, the teacher group, WAETAG formed. And then, since teacher groups are unable to do political lobbying, the Washington Coalition for Gifted Education was born to take care of the legislative advocacy work. Each of these three "sister/ partner" groups plays a critical and irreplaceable role in making sure the needs of gifted students in our state are heard and addressed in a comprehensive manner, and the three parts complete the whole.

Parents are the primary advocates for their children and have always been the ones to pave the way and strengthen the work that is done on behalf of students. Without parents' (taxpayers and voters) willingness to go to bat for their children, legislators are not as motivated to do what is needed to make change and teachers do not have the proper backing and support to do what they know needs to happen for the good of these children. Parents need to remain vigilant and aware of what is happening in our schools, especially at the state level, and keep voicing concerns in order to continue making inroads for a fair and equitable education for all students.

adopted the following aims and purposes:

Increase public and professional awareness of the need for appropriate educational opportunities for talented and gifted students.

Encourage development of programs for professional preparation and growth in gifted and talented education.

Assist with national, state, and local legislation to provide consistent challenge for all students.

Cooperate with other groups to organize and to enhance educational opportunities for all students.

Support quality programs which increase challenging educational opportunities for all students

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