

October 2010

Dear Member Schools, Colleagues and Friends of WFIS,

In 1967 I was handed my first teaching contract in the Puyallup School District. The day I walked into my first 7th grade class, I was hooked on teaching and on education. The journey of 44 years as an educator has taken many forms: Department Chair, union representative, private school teacher, WIAA and NFHS board member, private school principal, superintendent, WFIS legislative committee, and most recently lobbyist and Executive Director for WFIS. As I look back over the years, I am profoundly grateful to all of my mentors, friends and colleagues who have influenced my passion for seeing that all children should have the opportunity for a world-class education. I believe that can be accomplished with a minimum (or less) of government support or intrusion. Making the transition from public education to private education in 1980 was not difficult because I cherish the freedoms that we have as private school educators. We can educate those students that come to us based on the mutual values and mission we share with the parents of the children we serve and the voluntary communities which form our schools.

Throughout my seven-year tenure at WFIS, it has been my goal, on behalf of all of our member schools, to see to it that these freedoms are not eroded by government mandates or societal pressures at any level of PreK-12 education. I have worked side by side with other organizations, both statewide and nationally, to write and promote legislation that will benefit our schools. I have been blessed by the support of every board member that I have had the privilege to work and learn from. I believe that, right now, WFIS is in a very strong position. We are a well-respected and influential organization within our state and nation.

I will be retiring in June of 2011 from my position as Executive Director, knowing that this organization is ready and prepared to take the next steps to continue the 41 years of organizational excellence we have experienced. As our Board Chair, Briel Schmitz, has announced, we are beginning our executive search and looking for qualified candidates. I am excited for WFIS and its future.

Thank you for your support and willingness to work together as "the advocate and voice of private education in Washington."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Jennings". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Judy Jennings  
Executive Director