

October 2010

Dear WFIS Members and Constituents,

I write to you today to announce that Washington Federation of Independent Schools' Executive Director Judy Jennings will be retiring in June 2011. I share this news with a sense of accomplishment in all that WFIS has achieved in the past six years under Judy's leadership, as well as optimism and excitement for the future of the organization.

It is almost impossible to fully describe and appreciate the depth and breadth of the work that Judy has done for WFIS and for all private schools in Washington State. For those of you who have been lucky enough to meet her in person, you know that she is a force with which to be reckoned and that her passion and belief in the need for independent, non-public education drives her work state-wide.

I would like to highlight just a few of the milestones reached by WFIS under Judy's leadership:

- State Board of Education (SBE) recognizes private school accrediting agencies
- Private schools representative with full voting privileges added to the SBE
- WFIS appointee included on the Early Learning Council
- Private schools exempted from standardized sex education and HPV education laws
- Private school input for health and safety rules for all schools
- In collaboration with the Council for American Private Education, private school teachers included in federal loan forgiveness program
- Legislation to allow private schools access to FBI background checks
- The first Title II statewide conference offered, free of charge, to all private school teachers

In addition, Judy is recognized within the state and nation as a leader and advocate in private education. Her work for private schools will support the thousands of students, administrators, teachers and families in private schools for many, many years.

Judy's retirement comes at a time when WFIS has achieved many important goals. Additionally, the Board is committed to the WFIS mission, *to strengthen education for the students of Washington State as the advocate and voice of independent schools*. Now is the time to build on Judy's foundation and to seek a new Executive Director to continue this important work. Interested applicants are encouraged to submit a resume and letter of intent to Briel Schmitz, WFIS Board Chair, 914 Virginia Street, Seattle, WA 98101, or via email to briels@sprucestreetschool.org by October 30.

With thanks to Judy Jennings for her seven years of service, and on behalf of the WFIS Board of Directors,



Briel Schmitz
Board Chair