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Editor's Corner: Introduction to Professionalism Across the Continuum

Jason Margolis
Washington State University Vancouver

Rick Sawyer
Washington State University Vancouver, rsawyer@wsu.edu

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Editors' Corner

Welcome to our second issue of Northwest Passage. Our special section - the (Elusive) Connection Between Practice and Policy - grew out of discussions at last year's NWATE conference in SeaTac, WA, where our first issue was released.

This special section explores different forms of practitioner knowledge and their relationship to policy. We view "practice" as the continuous exercise of a profession. A critical aspect of practice involves a second definition - to perform or to work at something repeatedly to become proficient. There is often a uni-directional relationship between policy and practice, as educational policies are often made in locations far from practitioners' workplace. In this special journal section, we invite you to explore how this tension is experienced in multiple educational venues - as represented by our various authors. This includes articles on teacher collaboration, by K-12 Literacy Coach Monica Stonier; special education technology policy, by Matt Marino; the recruitment and support of minority teachers, by Alejandra Favela and Danielle Torres, and teacher perceptions of the funding crisis in Oregon public schools, by LeNora Cohen, Jennifer Dizon, Jan Mills, Gregory Sampson-Gruener, and Donna Shaw.

We also have included several articles on a variety of important educational issues in our "Open Topic" section. There include both empirical and philosophical pieces.

In looking ahead to our third issue, scheduled for release in March 2009, we invite you to continue to submit articles related to pressing educational issues, both within the Pacific Northwest in the United States and Western Canada, from both local and international contexts.

Jason Margolis
Richard Sawyer