



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Northwest Professional Educators Meets with US Secretary of Education**

Spokane, WA – Cindy Omlin, Executive Director of the Northwest Professional Educators (NWPE), a non-union professional teacher association, met with the US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, along with other state leaders of non-union professional teacher associations, during a week-long leadership conference in Washington, DC.



“Secretary Spellings listened to our concerns and rendered invaluable, first-hand information about the priorities of the Department,” said Cindy Omlin, Executive Director of NWPE. “She was clear that she intended to work with NWPE’s member states – Washington, Oregon and Idaho, to improve their education systems.”

In the meeting, Secretary Spellings addressed special education provisions in No Child Left Behind - an education reform initiative by the Bush Administration designed to improve national student achievement. The US Department of Education oversees its implementation.

Secretary Spellings also addressed a \$100 million Bush Administration proposal which would allow funds to be made available to the states to develop and implement innovative ways to provide incentives for educators who raise student achievement in some of America’s highest-needed schools. Congress is currently considering the initiative.

“Northwest Professional Educators has a voice in Washington, DC, and it is important to have our voices heard, even at the highest level,” said Ms. Omlin. “Secretary Spellings was pleased to meet with us and wants to work with NWPE to help achieve our mutual goal of improving education in America.”

Northwest Professional Educators (NWPE) is a non-partisan professional educators’ organization founded by educators wanting a professional organization focused on students as educators’ highest priority and improving the professionalism of education. For more information about NWPE, please contact (800) 380-6973 or find us on the web at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org).

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