

## **Patricia A. Wasley: Summary Biography**

Dean of the College of Education at the University of Washington since 2000, Dr. Wasley has been an ardent and tireless advocate for the College and public education in general. Working with college faculty as well as colleagues across campus and with the P-12 community, Dr. Wasley has demonstrated vigorous, creative leadership to ensure that the College continues to expand its capacity to improve public education in Washington State, through its research, teaching, and its partnership activities.

A nationally recognized leader in education, Dr. Wasley has accumulated a substantial record of action-based research on the improvement of public education through teacher and administrator change and whole-school reform. She is the co-PI on “Teachers for a New Era,” a five-million-dollar grant awarded in 2003 to the University of Washington (as one of 11 universities) by the Carnegie Corporation, aimed at strengthening P-12 teaching by developing state-of-the-art schools of education. And she has provided leadership in the development of partnerships between the University of Washington and institutions in China, South Africa, and England. Dr. Wasley also led a major study of Chicago’s small-schools initiative and is currently leading a five-year national action project aimed at ensuring quality teachers. “Strengthening and Sustaining Teachers” is a project that seeks to stem the high rate of teacher attrition by building a continuum of support from preparation through the fifth year of teaching.

Dr. Wasley is the author of numerous articles and several books on school reform, including *Teachers Who Lead* and *Stirring the Chalkdust*. She is co-author of *Kids and School Reform* (Jossey-Bass, 1997), which investigates the relationship between school change and students’ academic achievement. Recent publications include: “A Better Windmill: Teacher Education at the University of Washington,” *Educational Perspectives* (fall/winter 2003); “Small Classes, Small Schools: The Time is Now,” *Educational Leadership* (Feb. 2002); “In Search of Authentic Reform,” *Voices in Urban Education*,; and “Responsible Accountability and Teacher Learning,” a chapter in *Accountability Run Amok: Toward More Responsible Appraisal of Our Children and Their Schools* (edited by K. Sirotnik).

Dr. Wasley began her education career almost 30 years ago as a public school teacher and administrator. From 1989-1996, she served as Senior Researcher for School Change with the Coalition of Essential Schools and at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. In 1996 she began a four-year tenure as dean of the Graduate School at Bank Street College of Education in New York City, where she led the faculty in an examination of what it means to be a progressive educational institution at the beginning of the new century. A much sought-after and engaging speaker, Dr. Wasley is frequently invited by a wide variety of educational and community groups to speak on issues related to school reform, educational leadership, and teacher education. She also serves on several national and state education advisory boards and committees.