# Engaging the Challenges of Public Education

***Return to Evergreen*** Fishbowl Panelists

**Isis Albert '98, MiT '01  
Dual Language Instructional Coach, Evergreen Elementary School - Shelton**

Isis Albert entered Evergreen as an undergraduate with an eye toward teaching. She graduated from Evergreen’s MiT program in 2001 with endorsements in elementary education and Spanish. For the past 11 years she's had the pleasure of teaching and learning in the two-way immersion program at Shelton’s Evergreen Elementary School. She holds National Board Certification in the area of English as a New Language, was a Project GLAD Agency Trainer, and was honored as Educator of the Year 2010 by the Washington Association for Bilingual Education. Currently, she collaborates with other dual-language educators as an instructional coach.

##### Wayne Au '94, MiT '96 Assistant Professor, University of Washington - Bothell

An assistant professor of Education at the University of Washington, Bothel, Wayne was recently interviewed by KING 5’s “Education Nation,” about fairness in education and students of color. Wayne has authored three books: Multicultural Education Teaching for Racial and Cultural Justice, Rethinking Schools, 2009; Unequal by Design: High Stakes Testing and the Standardization of Inequality, Taylor and Francis, Inc., 2008; and Unequal by Design, Routledge, 2008.

##### Rich Coker, MiT '08 Teacher, Clover Park High School

Rich is a graduate of the 2008 Evergreen Master in Teaching cohort, and teaches Humanities at Clover Park High School. During the last few years, he has been focused on service learning, culminating projects, differentiation, and standards-based pedagogy. He has presented on these topics at the Coalition of Essential Schools Culminating Project Institute and at the National Council for Social Studies Annual Conference.

##### Lorri DeFoor, MiT '09 Teacher, Oakville Middle and High School

Since graduating from the MiT program, Lorri, has taught middle and high school mathematics in the Oakville School District, where she gained valuable insight into the current systemic challenges faced by a small, rural school district. With a strong foundation from the MiT program, she’s been able to face many of these challenges in ways that have produced gains in student interest, engagement, and achievement in mathematics.

##### Laura Handy-Nimick '03, MiT '05 Teacher, Spanaway Junior High School

Laura teaches seventh-grade language arts and social studies at Tacoma’s Spanaway Junior High School. Previously, she taught seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade reading, language arts and history at Bethel Junior High School. She is also the athletic director and coaches both fully capable and special needs cheer teams. When not busy at school, she and her husband run Life's Handy Work, a non-profit organization helping Nepalese girls rescued from the slave trade attend college and receive vocational training in Kathmandu.

##### David Hunter '09, MiT '11 Teacher, Bellevue Big Picture School

David Hunter teaches at Bellevue Big Picture School, an alternative project-based public school focused on teaching in a way that is rigorous, relevant to students, and connected to the real world. He focuses on effective teaching innovations within the public schools that engage the student in his or her learning. Outside school, David is working with video game software companies to design lessons for teachers to integrate video games as a text in the classroom. He is also his school's union representative and a professional dancer in Seattle.

##### Darice Johnson '94, MiT '96 Assistant Principal, Cascade Middle School

Darice Johnson has been in education for the last 15 years, and is the assistant principal of Auburn School District’s Cascade Middle School. She first taught in University Place, then spent the majority of her teaching career in Seattle Public Schools, teaching seventh and eighth grades at the African American Academy and Madrona K-8. She was house administrator at Mercer Middle School, having earned her Administration Credentials through the Danforth program at the University of Washington.

##### Lee Lambert '87 President, Shoreline Community College

Dr. Lee D. Lambert is president and chief executive officer of Shoreline Community College. As a leader and champion for innovation and change in U.S. higher education, President Lambert’s work has been recognized locally, nationally and internationally. In 2009, he was the recipient of the Association for Community College Trustees Pacific Region Chief Executive Officer Award. President Lambert has a J.D. degree from Seattle University’s School of Law and serves on a number of local and national Boards and Councils.

##### Ervanna Little Eagle '02, MiT '04 Teacher, Marysville School District

A member of the Warm Springs tribe in Oregon, Ervanna taught for the Marysville School District for eight years, starting as a social studies teacher at Marysville Junior High School, and now co-teaches in a humanities class at Tulalip Heritage High School.

##### Autumn Sheldon '00, MiT '05 Teacher, Pioneer Elementary School

Autumn earned her B.A. and her Master in Teaching degree from Evergreen, and teaches second grade.

##### John Stocks '81 Executive Director, National Education Association

A national leader in the fight to transform America’s public schools, John is executive director of the National Education Association, the nation’s largest union, representing over 3 million educators. His commitment to public education spans decades. Stocks served as assistant executive director for public affairs at the Wisconsin Education Association Council. Then, as executive director of Idaho Fair Share.  
In 1988, Stocks successfully ran for State Senate in Idaho.  A native of New Orleans, Stocks is a graduate of Evergreen State College. He and his wife, Connie, have two children.