



For Immediate Release

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UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON JOINS LARGEST TEACH-IN IN US HISTORY

Over a thousand campuses help focus nation on solutions to global warming

SEATTLE, Washington. — On January 31, 2008, the University of Washington will participate in Focus The Nation, an unprecedented teach-in on global warming solutions. “It is our obligation as an institution to ensure that our students, faculty and staff understand the core of the issues and are engaged in the process of finding solutions free from the influence of politics and partisanship,” said Mark Emmert, president of the University of Washington, in a statement supporting Focus The Nation. “I encourage all faculty, students and staff to look for opportunities to participate in the UW’s Focus The Nation programming. It is through these types of community activities that we can build the momentum to make positive changes together.”

“Today’s college students are truly the greatest generation,” says Lewis & Clark professor of economics Dr. Eban Goodstein, author and project director for the national Focus The Nation campaign. “No other generation has ever had to face this kind of civilizational challenge. And we as educators would be failing if we did not prepare them to meet this challenge.”

The public is invited to the University of Washington event beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Husky Union Building on the UW campus, including plenary talks, panel presentations and exhibitions by students, faculty members, businesses, and representatives from local government and nonprofit organizations. The day culminates in a town hall political discussion from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in Kane Hall 130 on the UW campus, moderated by Steve Sher of NPR. Participants in the evening discussion include Congressman Jay Inslee, Mayor Greg Nickels, King County Executive Ron Sims, and Representative Fred Jarrett. The event is free. Registration is required for the evening political discussion to ensure adequate seating. Please visit UW Focus The Nation’s website (<http://depts.washington.edu/uwfocus/>) to register.

“Universities have a huge role to play in raising public awareness about climate change. Colleges not only have the credibility to discuss the complex set of issues linked to global warming, they also

provide direct access to young people poised to inherit a radically changing environment. We created this problem, it's theirs to fix," says Luanne Thompson, organizer of the UW Focus The Nation event.

For more information on the University of Washington and their participation in Focus The Nation, please visit <http://depts.washington.edu/uwfocus/> or call (206) 543-9965.

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Focus The Nation is an unprecedented educational initiative on global warming solutions for America occurring at more than 1,000 universities and colleges and in all 50 states on Jan. 31, 2008. As the largest teach-in in U.S. history, Focus The Nation is preparing millions of students to become leaders in the largest civilizational challenge any generation has faced. For more information, please visit www.focusthenation.org.