

**The Evergreen School**  
**Speaker Program**  
**Mission Statement**

**Title:Cultivating Giftedness in Young Minds: Challenges and Best Practices**

**Mission Statement:**

The Evergreen School Speaker Program will be an on-going effort to address the cultivation of giftedness in young minds, and to examine related challenges and best practices. We intend to become a resource for the region for educators of highly capable learners, as well as the broader educational community. To achieve these goals, we intend to bring together university researchers, public and private educators, and education policy makers.

Our focus for this program will be on setting the foundation for the life-long development of cognitive, social and emotional skills, and gifted education in diverse and under-served populations. We will focus on research-based understanding of these areas, and on translating this knowledge into use in the classroom and beyond.

The theme of each annual Speaker Program conference will be aligned with the professional goals for the Evergreen teaching staff, as well as parents, the wider public and private education community, and the goals of potential Program partners

We anticipate an ongoing series, with one to two focused events per academic year, each session structured with a keynote address and follow-up, workshop-style components.

The sessions will cover

1. An overview of challenges and best practices in social, emotional and cognitive development;
2. Neurobiological foundations of learning and research in the science of education;
3. Diversity and under-served populations of highly-capable learners;
4. Early and pre-school education.

History

In 2005, the board of trustees of The Evergreen School, in Shoreline, Washington, instituted a Strategic Plan that laid out initiatives for the school. These included challenges for the school to become a resource to the local and regional community regarding best practices in the education of highly capable learners; to become a leader in networking with other gifted education programs in addressing challenges and reviewing

best practices; and to work to share our exceptional programs and effective pedagogical practices. The Speaker Series 2008-09 will well serve other goals of the Strategic Plan, especially in the area of Professional Development. This series will also focus on developing gifted educational practices for under -served populations, supporting the diversity initiatives of the Strategic Plan.