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Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences

Fellow Career and Technical Instructors,

WASTS is embarking on a totally new concept in Technical Upgrade opportunities. As the budgets continue to shrink across all School Districts we felt it was our obligation to continue providing CTE instructors with needed training to maintain their teaching certificates. It may seem to appear as an unfunded mandate by the legislature but we are moving to meet this challenge.

New this year is the intent to provide training in a drive in and drive out fashion. This will eliminate the need for overnight accommodations and per-diem meal expenses. WASTS believes this radical new concept will be broadly accepted and welcomed by both CTE Directors and building administrators.

This academic year we will be offering two "drive in - drive out" events. One in Renton, WA, on the state-wide inservice day of Friday, October 14th. With most districts observing this predetermined date, attendees will not have added release costs for substitutes in their classrooms. The second opportunity is Saturday, February 25th in Kennewick WA. We urge instructors to join together in carpooling to and from these sessions. Not only is it a substantial savings for the districts but it is also the "Green" thing to do for our environment. As an example, if six instructors car pool to the event, it brings the cost of travel down to 8 1/2 ¢ per mile.

Every day-long training offered will have lunch included in the total cost and deliver a minimum of 6 and up to a maximum of 7 clock hours for certificate maintenance. Our targeted cost of \$99 per session puts these training opportunities within every districts reach.

Finally, we are trying to offer training that can be utilized by virtually any educator. With this being said, we are not requiring any teacher wishing to participate to be a member of WASTS. As an example, the Camtasia and Mimeo sessions can be of value to every educator and teachers wanting to incorporate art into their curriculum will be amazed with the "Anyone Can Draw" session in February, so feel free to spread the word.

Keep an eye out for our e-mails promoting this bold new concept in technical upgrades and join us for these great educational sessions, I look forward to seeing you there!

Ken Toney
WASTS President