

DOE donates 1,000 computers to Washington schools

Last Thursday, Aug. 9, U.S. Senator Patty Murray of Washington state joined teachers and representatives of the Department of Energy, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Wilderness Technology Alliance to announce the donation of 1,000 computers to more than 60 schools across Washington state.

Through a partnership with the Wilderness Technology Alliance, students and teachers will refurbish out-of-date systems for their schools and local communities. They will use the computers donated by the Department of Energy to develop Web sites for community organizations and teach low-income adults to use computers, as well as to update systems in schools and community organizations.

Senator Murray introduced legislation in 1996 to allow donations of surplus government computers to help public schools bridge the digital divide. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she helped secure \$105,000 in fiscal year 2001 to refurbish computers donated to the Wilderness Technology Alliance.

Thirty-four school districts will receive 15 computers each as part of the Hanford donation. Included in our region are the Ellensburg, Granger, Kenne-wick, Wapato, Dayton, Pasco and Wahluke School Districts. ♦