

UPDATE: Stand Up for NW Noggin, and Student Rights!

*DISCLAIMER: THE OPINIONS HEREIN ARE OF THOSE SOLELY EXPRESSED BY WSUV STUDENTS. DR. BILL GRIESAR AND JEFF LEAKE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF, OR INFLUENCE IN THE MAKING OF THIS DOCUMENT.

UPDATE: Dr. Bill Griesar, Jeff Leake, and their nonprofit art and neuroscience outreach organization NW Noggin will no longer be present on the WSUV campus after the end of this semester.

NW Noggin @ WSU Vancouver Neuroscience

<https://labs.wsu.edu/wsunoggin/>

As this semester comes to a close it is with great sorrow that we, the Students of Washington State University Vancouver say good bye to two amazing teachers and outreach coordinators. WSU Vancouver will not be renewing the contracts of Bill Griesar, a faculty member of 17 years, and Jeff Leake, a faculty member of 5 years. The reason for this decision remains unclear, and those behind it have yet to come forward. Concern remains among many of the students of WSU Vancouver with regard to how this contradicts the values and mission of our school. It is WSU's stated mission to provide us with opportunity for involvement that includes, outreach, engagement, and an overall "transformative student experience." As students of this institution we cannot help but wonder if this decision was made with our best interests in mind, as it is the students of WSUV who will feel this loss most of all.

WSU Vision, Mission, and Values

1. Exceptional Research, Innovation, and Creativity
2. A Transformative Student Experience
3. Outreach and Engagement
4. Institutional Effectiveness

(<https://strategicplan.wsu.edu/plan/vision-mission-and-values/>)

Many students at WSUV have wanted to expand their education and get involved in neuroscience but opportunities on campus were limited. NW Noggin provided many students with the opportunities that they had been searching for, because it allowed them to network and share their knowledge with the community, all while learning new skills that are valuable to their success as future scientists.

The students of WSUV will not be the only ones to feel this loss. It is the collective support of the community, and volunteers from WSUV, PSU and OHSU that allow NW Noggin a greater capacity for outreach. Noggin has brought brains to over 12,000 kids, and has made a tremendous impact in many people's lives. It goes without saying that Bill Griesar, Jeff Leake and NW Noggin will be greatly missed on this campus, and in the local community.

Ultimately, we may not have prevented this from occurring, and we are still without answers, however, it was our initial intention to generate awareness of this decision and we believe that we have accomplished that. Regardless of this decision we know how important these teachers and this organization are to us, as well as so many others in this community. We will continue to spread the word about Noggin outreach on the WSUV campus, and we will take pride in knowing that some part of the network remains through us, the students of WSUV.

Together, we are the NW Noggin network!

Visit the NW Noggin website at <http://nwnoggin.org>