

We look forward to pursuing legislation this coming session in support of

expanding our state's vision of where and how kids learn.

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## Mari Offenbecher, chief executive officer School's Out Washington

## Regressive tax system stymies quality education

One of the headlines The Seattle Times would like to see in 2014 was 'State's world-class education system solves income inequality."

Again, on Jan. 5, The Times' editorialized "Targeting education." Yet, the connection between our "regressive tax system," mentioned by a reader in a headline on Jan. 1, and quality education is never made. How can one of the most progressive states in the U.S. on other social issues have a tax system that does not even adequately meet our constitutional obligation in providing education?

By the way, who is going to educate and fairly pay all those early childhood teachers, whose contribution to quality education is finally being recognized.

Due to our regressive taxes, our state is simply becoming a poster child for the gap between the haves and have-nots.

## Rachael Levine, Burien

## Use existing programs at state unviersities as institutes of technology

Sometimes great ideas are reborn. Nick Brossoit's call for a state technology institute is one example ["Want more STEM grads to stay? Start a Washington Institute of Technology," Opinion, Dec. 14]. In 2000, Gov. Gary Locke, UW-Tacoma Chancellor Vicky Carwein and other leaders helped establish the Institute of Technology at the UW-Tacoma to help build a first-rate technical workforce.

The institute has grown from one undergraduate degree program in computer science with 30 students to undergraduate programs in computer science, computer engineering and information technology, and master's programs in computer science, cybersecurity and leadership. Enrollment is currently 660 students, and the 150 degrees awarded this year will add to nearly 900 already earned.

This year, the institute's Center for Web and Data Science received more than \$2.5 million in outside funding to support research and development. Corporate partners are many. In coming years, we anticipate adding degree programs and collaborating on initiatives with our UW colleagues in Seattle and Bothell.

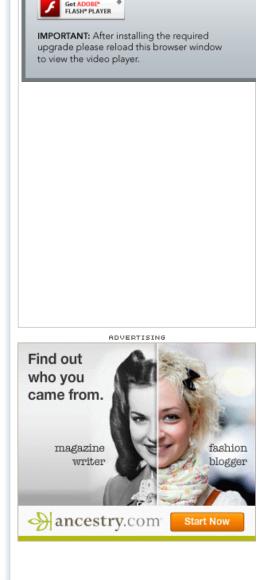
It takes years and many dollars to build a new technical institute. It is far more effective to invest in proven, successful programs at the UW, Washington State University and Western Washington University.

# Rob Friedman, Institute of Technology, UW-Tacoma

# Ed Lazowska, Computer Science & Engineering, UW-Seattle

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