



SEEDS OF WISDOM

SIRI AKAL KHALSA, Ed.D.

Siri Akal Khalsa, Ed.D.

Executive Director

**Northwest Association
of Independent Schools
(NWAIS)**

On Independent School Culture in the Pacific Northwest

What attracted me to the Northwest was its amazing pioneer spirit. From the first moment I set foot here in the Seattle area, I felt this was a region that was not only young, but growing, embracing change and very welcoming of outsiders of every ilk. As someone who is a practicing Sikh with a full turban and long beard, I felt a kind of embrace in the culture and among our schools that I have never felt anyplace else in the country.

Diversity is one of the core values of NWAIS. In fact, it is folded into our accreditation process. We hold schools to a very high standard for creating diverse, welcoming communities with as few borders and boundaries as is reasonable and possible. We wish that every family and every child can feel safe, cared for, noticed, understood, and stand very firmly on a platform of strong academics on the one hand, and real social and emotional growth on the other.

On Transitioning from a Public or Charter School Setting

If you are making a transition from a public school or a charter school, hit the ground running. Our schools invite, in fact they hire, people who are interested in making a difference, who want to try things and sometimes fail. Failure is encouraged here, because it is part of the process of improvement. That ties back to that pioneerism that we see reflected in all of our schools. Schools are trying things. They're doing wonderful things. They're doing amazing things. They are making a difference for the future generations.

CalWest 
EDUCATORS PLACEMENT®

CalWestEducators.com

818-906-2972