



News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association
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For Immediate Release.

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Seventeen boards honored as Boards of Distinction

Seventeen school boards in Washington were named this week as *Boards of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors' Association.

These boards govern the school districts of Bellingham, Clover Park, Everett, Ferndale, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Stevens, Pasco, Pullman, Puyallup, Riverview, Sunnyside, Tacoma, Tumwater, Union Gap, University Place and West Valley (Spokane).

“Their work shows how much of a difference an outstanding board can make in student learning,” said Mari Taylor, President of the association. “We applaud their commitment to their students and communities.”

The Sunnyside school board will also receive a Special Merit award for earning Board of Distinction recognition for five consecutive years

The annual Boards of Distinction program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards, developed and adopted by WSSDA in 2009, promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement, and help close the opportunity gap.

Award applicants submit an essay and supporting evidence to demonstrate how they are putting the standards into practice. This year, applicants addressed the following:

- Promoting healthy relationships by inspiring and empowering others.
- Setting and communicating high expectations for student learning, with clear goals and plans.
- Creating conditions for student and staff success.
- Holding schools and the district accountable for student learning expectations.
- Engaging the local community and representing the values and expectations it holds for schools.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

The boards will be honored next week during the 2014 WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane. At that time, the association will also announce three 2014 Boards of the Year winners. These are the highest-scoring board from each of three categories based on district enrollment. School directors for each honored Board of Distinction are:

Bellingham: Steve Smith, Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler and Ken Gass

Clover Park: Dr. Marty Schafer, Carole Jacobs, Walt Kelcy, Jr., Joseph Vlaming and J. Paul Wagemann

Everett: Pam LeSesne, Carol Andrews, Caroline Mason, Traci Mitchell and Ted Wenta

Ferndale: Lee Anne Riddle, Kevin Erickson, Hugh Foulke, Stuart McKay and Andrew McLaurin

Issaquah: Marnie Maraldo, Lisa Callan, Brian Deagle, Anne Moore and Suzanne Weaver

Kent: Debbie Straus, Karen DeBruler, Agda Burchard, Russ Hanscom and Maya Vengadasalam

Lake Stevens: John Boerger, Kevin Plemel, David Iseminger, Paul Lund and Mari Taylor

Pasco: Sherry Lancon, Ryan Brault, Steven Christensen, Scott Lehrman and Amy Phillips

Pullman: Dr. Jim Evermann, Dean Kinzer, Dr. Karl Johanson, Dr. Allison Munch-Rotolo and Susan Weed

Puyallup: Chris Ihrig, Pat Donovan, Pat Jenkins, Dane Looker and Kathy Yang

Riverview: Carol Van Noy, Lori Oviatt, Greg Bawden, Danny Edwards and Jodi Fletcher

Sunnyside: Rocky Simmons, Dylan Gardner, Sandra Linde, Michelle Perry and Stephen R. Winfree

Tacoma: Kurt Miller, Scott Heinze, Catherine Ushka, Karen Vialle and Debbie Winskill

Tumwater: Jay Wood, Bob Barclift, Rita Luce, Kim Reykdal and Janine Ward

Union Gap: Carrie Greenough, Louise Sisk, Dianna Grunlose, Ronald Jennings and Margarita Soto

University Place: Christine Kilduff, Mary Lu Dickinson, Michael Ehart, Annie Fitzsimmons and Rick Maloney

West Valley: Jim Williams, Robert Dompier, Pam McLeod, Adam Mortensen and Bob Wentworth

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About WSSDA — Founded in 1922, the Washington State School Directors' Association is comprised of all 1,477 school board members from Washington's 295 school districts. The districts they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of about \$10 billion, and employ more than 160,000 people. WSSDA's core mission is focused on ensuring that school board members have the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and improve student learning.