



# News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association  
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**For Immediate Release.**

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## **Four boards honored as five-time winners**

### **University Place, West Valley and Issaquah named as School Boards of the Year**

The University Place, West Valley (Spokane) and Issaquah School Boards have been named the 2015 school *Boards of the Year*.

The awards were presented in Bellevue Friday during the Annual Conference of the Washington State School Directors' Association. The three boards were chosen from a field of 15 boards who applied.

“Each of these boards was very focused,” said Chris Nieuwenhuis, outgoing WSSDA President. “They adopted goals such as increasing graduation rates and reducing achievement gaps, and they used data to develop solutions and monitor results. They have all been successful.”

In addition to the above three boards, six other school boards were earlier named Boards of Distinction. They come from districts in Auburn, Ferndale, Kent, Puyallup, Riverview and South Kitsap.

The West Valley, Auburn, Kent and Puyallup boards also earned special awards for attaining Board of Distinction honors five times.

In a separate awards program, the Mount Vernon and Kent School Boards were honored for their efforts on behalf of diversity. Those awards were handed out by the Washington School Boards' Educational Foundation.

The annual Boards of Distinction and Boards of the Year 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.

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

- Conducting business in a fair, respectful and responsible manner.
- Leading the development, articulation and stewardship of a vision of learning.
- Providing for the safety and security of students and staff.
- Measuring student academic progress and needs based on valid assessments.
- Ensuring board and district transparency through an open and accountable process.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

School directors for each of the boards, with superintendents in parentheses, are:

**Auburn:** Anne Baunach, Laurie Bishop, Carol Seng, Ryan Van Quill, Ray Vefik, (Alan Spicciati)

**Ferndale:** Kevin Erickson, Hugh Foulke, Stuart McKay, Andrew McLaurin, Lee Anne Riddle, (Linda Quinn)

**Issaquah:** Lisa Callan, Brian Deagle, Marnie Maraldo, Anne Moore, Suzanne Weaver, (Ron Thiele)

**Kent:** Agda Burchard, Karen DeBruler, Russ Hanscom, Debbie Straus, Maya Vengadasalam, (Calvin Watts)

**Puyallup:** Pat Donovan, Chris Ihrig, Pat Jenkins, Dane Looker, Kathy Yang, (Tim Yeomans)

**Riverview:** Danny Edwards, Jodi Fletcher, Lori Oviatt, Sabrina Parnell, Carol Van Noy, (Anthony Smith)

**South Kitsap:** Rebecca Diehl, Keith Garton, Patty Henderson, Chris Lemke, Gregory Wall, (Michelle Reid)

**University Place:** Mary Lu Dickinson, Ethelda Burke, Michael Ehart, Annie Fitzsimmons, Rick Maloney, (Patti Banks)

**West Valley (Spokane):** Bob Dompier, Dan Hansen, Pam McLeod, Adam Mortensen, Bob Wentworth, (Gene Sementi)

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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 nearly \$11 billion, and employ about 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.