



News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association
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For Immediate Release.

Contact: Michael Wilson, 360.252.3013 or m.wilson@wssda.org

Twenty-Four Honored as Boards of Distinction

Twenty-four school boards in Washington were named this week as *Boards of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors' Association. This is the largest number of boards in the eight-year history of the program.

“The increase in the number of boards of distinction reflects the rise in expertise on boards across the state to improve the quality of public education for each and every child,” said WSSDA President Chris Nation. “Each of these boards demonstrates the excellent work done by Washington’s 295 school boards and 1,477 school board members. This program gives us a chance to acknowledge that commitment to their students and communities.”

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 submitted essays and supporting evidence to demonstrate how they are putting the standards into practice. This year, applicants addressed the following:

- Being accountable and open to the public, and seeking divergent perspectives in its decision making.
- Adopting a collaboratively developed district plan focused on learning and achievement.
- Employing and supporting quality teachers, administrators and other staff, and providing for professional development.

Applicants also discussed specific decisions their boards had made and evidence on how they were working to help close the opportunity gap.

The applications were evaluated by an independent review panel.

The boards will be honored November 17 during the 2016 WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane. At that time, the association will also announce 2016 Boards of the Year winners. School directors for each honored Board of Distinction, with superintendents in parentheses, are:

Anacortes: Marilyn Hanesworth, Bobbilyn Hogge, Erin Rieger, Bill Shaw, Karl Yost, (Mark Wenzel)

Auburn: Anne Baunach, Laurie Bishop, Robyn Mulenga, Ryan Van Quill, Ray Vefik, (Alan Spicciati)

Battle Ground: Monty Anderson, Stephanie McClintock, Mavis Nickels, Jim Pegoraro, Ken Root, (Mark Hottowe)

Bellingham: Kelly Bashaw, Douglas Benjamin, Camille Diaz Hackler, Quenby Peterson, Steve Smith, (Gregory Baker)

Camas: Connie Hennessey, Casey O'Dell, Doug Quinn, Julie Rotz, Mary Tipton, (Mike Nerland, former superintendent)

Clover Park: Carole Jacobs, Becki Kelcy, Marty Schafer, Joseph Vlaming, Paul Wagemann, (Debbie LeBeau)

Crescent: Ann Chang, Sandy Criss, Trisha Haggerty, Susan Hopper, Dara Peppard, (David Bingham)

Eatonville: Roger Andrascik, Paulette Gilliardi, John Lambrecht, Ronda Litzenberger, Jeff Lucas, (Krestin Bahr)

Everett: Carol Andrews, Pam LeSesne, Caroline Mason, Traci Mitchell, Ted Wenta, (Gary Cohn)

Evergreen: Julie Bocanegra, Victoria Bradford, Michael Parsons, Rob Perkins, Todd Yuzuriha, (John Deeder)

Federal Way: Liz Drake, Hiroshi Eto, Carol Gregory, Geoffery McAnallo, Claire Wilson, (Tammy Campbell)

Highline: Angelica Alvarez, Tyrone Curry, Sr., Bernie Dorsey, Michael Spear, Joe Van, (Susan Enfield)

Issaquah: Lisa Callan, Harlan Gallinger, Marnie Maraldo, Anne Moore, Suzanne Weaver, (Ron Thiele)

Kent: Agda Burchard, Karen DeBruler, Russell Hanscom, Deborah Straus, Maya Vengadasalam, (Calvin Watts)

Lake Washington: Nancy Bernard, Siri Bliesner, Chris Carlson, Eric Laliberte, Mark Stuart, (Traci Pierce)

Olympia: Mark Campeau, Justin Montermini, Eileen Thomson, Joellen Wilhelm, Frank Wilson, (Dick Cvitanich)

Pasco: Steve Christensen, Sherry Lancon, Scott Lehrman, Amy Phillips, Aaron Richardson, (Michelle Whitney)

Pullman: Jim Evermann, Karl Johanson, Dean Kinzer, Allison Munch-Rotolo, Susan Weed, (Bob Maxwell)

Puyallup: Pat Donovan, Christopher Ihrig, Michael Keaton, Dane Looker, Kathy Yang, (Tim Yeomans)

Quincy: Chris Baumgartner, Joseph James, Tricia Lubach, Susan Lybbert, Alex Ybarra, (John Boyd)

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

South Whidbey: Rocco Gianni, Damian Greene, Julie Hadden, Shawn Nowlin, Linda Racicot, (Josephine Moccia)

Tacoma: Andrea Cobb, Scott Heinze, Catherine Ushka, Karen Vialle, Debbie Winskill, (Carla Santorno)

Wapato: Maria Erickson, John Francisco, Alan Taylor, Javier Vela, Myron Yolo, (Becky Imler)

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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.