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**Contact:**        **Bill Keim**  
Washington Association of School Administrators  
360.870.8708  
[bkeim@wasa-oly.org](mailto:bkeim@wasa-oly.org)  
[www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org)

## **WASA Recognizes Outstanding Educational Leaders at the 2017 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference**

*Washington state educators celebrate successes, focus on leadership, equity,  
and opportunity for our state's students*

**SPOKANE** — More than 950 school superintendents, central office administrators, and principals from across Washington state gathered in Spokane to attend the 37th annual Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) Summer Conference. The theme of this year's conference, "Passion + Purpose = Progress," focused on school leaders' passion for excellence, equity, and opportunity for Washington's students.

Keynote speakers and breakout sessions addressed topics such as leadership development, equity, using data, and meeting the needs of all students. The event also played host to WASA's 2017 Honorary Awards Luncheon where WASA state-level awards, the Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrative awards, and the Dr. Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education were presented.

"Each year, as many of our state's educational leaders attend the WASA/AWSP Summer Conference, there is a great opportunity to honor those who have made a special contribution to our shared work," said Bill Keim, executive director of WASA. "The honorees that we recognized this year truly made a statewide impact on improving public education and are very worthy of the recognition."

Those receiving special recognition this year included:

### **WASA State Level Awards**

- *WASA Leadership Award:* **Dr. Richard McBride, Superintendent, North Central ESD**
- *Service to WASA Award:* **Merle Kirkley, Retired Vice President, The Beresford Company**
- *Barbara Mertens Legacy Award:* **Dr. Gay Selby, Retired Coordinator for the WSU Vancouver Principal and Statewide Certification Programs.** Recipients of this award receive a \$1,000 cash gift from sponsor D.A. Davidson & Co. to give to the education program of their choice.
- *Golden Gavel Award:* **Washington State Sen. Andy Billig, D-Spokane**
- *Regional Awards:* Several regional awards and milestones also were acknowledged. For a complete list of WASA regional awards, visit the WASA website at [www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org).

### **Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards**

The Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards, sponsored by PEMCO Insurance and WASA, seek to recognize outstanding public-school administrators in Washington state. One highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator is selected from a small school district (up to 500 students), medium-size school district (501–2,000 students), and large school district (over 2,000 students). A \$10,000 award is equally divided among the three winners. A peer committee selects the recipients from nominations that describe how each nominee is taking part in realizing the nine characteristics of high performing schools/districts as defined by research from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

This year's Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards were presented to:

- *Large District:* **Dr. Joyce Stewart, Deputy Superintendent, Everett Public Schools**
- *Medium-Size District:* **Diane Hull, Director, Special Programs, Bridgeport School District**
- *Small District:* **Dr. Linda Martin, Superintendent, Thorp School District**

### **Dr. Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education**

The 2016 Dr. Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education was presented to **Heather Sánchez, Director, Accelerated Programs, Choice & Innovation, Lake Washington School District**. The \$1,000 scholarship is cosponsored by Piper Jaffray & Co. and WASA. Sánchez was selected for her vision for K-12 public education over the next 10 years that increases outcomes for all students as well as improving opportunity for our most “marginalized students.”

The Doyle E. Winter Scholarship is designed to assist talented and committed educational administrators as they enhance those skills needed to serve as educational leaders in the field of public education. The scholarship was established in honor of Dr. Doyle Winter, who retired in 2002 after completing 44 years of service for Washington public schools. Winter is a former executive director of WASA and has been recognized repeatedly for exhibiting exemplary leadership ability and enhancing school administration throughout his career.

### **About the Washington Association of School Administrators**

*The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With over 1,675 members, membership is open to all education administrators in central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.*

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