



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2017

Contact: Bill Keim
Executive Director, Washington Association of School Administrators
800-859-9272
bkeim@wasa-oly.org
www.wasa-oly.org

2018 Washington State Superintendent of the Year Announced

Franklin Pierce Superintendent Dr. Frank Hewins receives top honor as Washington State's Superintendent of the Year

OLYMPIA — Dr. Frank Hewins, Superintendent, Franklin Pierce School District, was named the 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The announcement was made Nov. 18 at WASA's Superintendents Component board meeting in Bellevue. This award is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents and pay tribute to those who lead our public schools.

As the state's Superintendent of the Year, Hewins also will serve as a candidate for the 2018 American Association of School Administrators' National Superintendent of the Year award. The national award will be announced in February at the AASA National Conference on Education in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the selection of Dr. Frank Hewins as Washington's Superintendent of the Year," said WASA Executive Director Bill Keim. "This award recognizes the tireless efforts of Frank and his team at Franklin Pierce School District in supporting the success of each student. Their focused efforts to close achievement and opportunity gaps have resulted in remarkable growth in the district's graduation rates.

"While a team effort certainly created the growth, Frank's leadership set the vision and expectation for the success," added Keim. "That type of leadership is what the Superintendent of the Year award is designed to recognize."

Under Hewins' leadership, Franklin Pierce School District has achieved exceptional outcomes by focusing on well-trained and stable leadership, purposeful recruiting at all levels of the organization, thoughtful

and rigorous professional development for all staff, shared values of social justice and equity, strategic implementation of behavioral academic supports for students, and system coherence throughout the organization.

As a result, Franklin Pierce School District has experienced significant educational success closing the achievement gaps and producing an on-time graduation rate of 85.2 percent in a high-poverty, majority-minority community, exceeding the state and national averages for every single category of special populations and racial/cultural subgroups.

“To be recognized by my peers for the work we all love and are passionate about is an incredible honor. I am truly humbled to receive this award. It is also a testament to the day-to-day, student-by-student work of the talented and caring School Board, administrators, principals, teachers, and support staff of Franklin Pierce Schools,” said Hewins.

“At a time in our history where the importance of public education is so critical to the future of our country, it is an honor just to be an educational leader standing shoulder to shoulder with the amazing men and women working in our schools and districts serving the 1.1 million students of Washington state.”

Hewins has been in education for 40 years, 30 of which have been spent in the Franklin Pierce School District, with 11 years served as the district’s superintendent.

Hewins holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Frostburg State University in Maryland, a Master of Arts degree from Pacific Lutheran University, and doctorate from Washington State University. In addition to his district responsibilities, Hewins serves on the boards of Junior Achievement of Washington, Latino/a Education Achievement Project (LEAP), Parkland-Spanaway Kiwanis Foundation, Pierce Center for Arts & Technology, and the Pierce County Skills Center.

Franklin Pierce School District is a public PreK–12 district in a 16-square-mile area of unincorporated Pierce County just south of Tacoma bordering a major metropolitan area and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The district serves 15 schools and employs more than 1,000 certificated and classified staff. The district population is made up of 8,000 students with a 75 percent poverty rate (highest in the county), 35 percent student mobility, and 50–60 different languages other than English spoken in student households. Their rich tapestry of diversity includes 65 percent students of color, dozens of cultures, and amazing students.

Washington's Superintendent of the Year is awarded a \$1,000 check from D.A. Davidson & Company to use toward a school or educational program of their choice. Past recipients of the WASA Superintendent of the Year award include:

- 2017: Gary Cohn, Everett PS
- 2016: Steve Webb, Vancouver PS **National Superintendent of the Year Finalist**
- 2015: Dennis Kip Herren, Auburn SD
- 2014: Edward Vargas, Kent SD
- 2013: Saundra Hill, Pasco SD
- 2012: Patti Banks, University Place SD
- 2011: Mary Alice Heuschel, Renton SD **National Superintendent of the Year Finalist**

- 2010: Steve Chestnut, Selah SD
- 2009: Mark Johnson, Nooksack Valley SD
- 2008: Linda Byrnes, Arlington SD
- 2007: Larry Nyland, Marysville SD ****National Superintendent of the Year Finalist****
- 2006: Ben Soria, Yakima SD ****National Superintendent of the Year Finalist****
- 2005: Art Jarvis, Enumclaw SD
- 2004: Carol Whitehead, Everett SD
- 2003: Rich McCullough, Snoqualmie Valley SD
- 2002: Steve Rasmussen, Franklin Pierce SD ****National Superintendent of the Year Finalist****
- 2001: Dale Kinsley, Bellingham SD
- 2000: Karen Forys, Northshore SD
- 1999: Jim Shoemake, Tacoma SD
- 1998: Mark Mitrovich, Peninsula SD
- 1997: Gary Livingston, Spokane SD
- 1996: Janet Barry, Central Kitsap SD ****National Superintendent of the Year****
- 1995: Bud Scarr, Lake Washington SD
- 1994: Jim Parsley, Vancouver SD
- 1993: Brian Benzel, Edmonds SD ****National Superintendent of the Year Finalist****
- 1992: Kent Matheson, Highline SD
- 1991: Jerry Hester, Spokane SD ****National Superintendent of the Year Finalist****
- 1990: Dennis Ray, Walla Walla SD
- 1989: Dewayne Gower, South Kitsap SD
- 1988: George Daniel, Kent SD

About the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA):

WASA (www.wasa-oly.org) is a non-profit organization committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful, valuable training support, and resources. WASA also strives to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. Membership is open to education administrators in Washington state.

###