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**June 30, 2015**

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## **WASA Recognizes Exemplary Educational Leaders at the 2015 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference**

*Washington state educators celebrate successes, focus on skills to “Lead Proceed Succeed.”*

**SPOKANE** — Over 800 school superintendents, central office administrators, and principals from across Washington state gathered in Spokane to attend the 35th annual Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) Summer Conference. The theme of this year’s conference, “Lead Proceed Succeed,” focused on helping leaders grow and succeed in leading their schools, districts, and staffs.

In addition to 64 breakout sessions on topics that include leadership, culture, student support, data/technology, early learning, graduation/college and career ready, and safety/crisis/preparedness, the event also played host to WASA’s 2015 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. Those receiving special recognition this year included:

### **WASA State Level Awards**

- **WASA Leadership Award:** Dr. Chrys Sweeting, Assistant Superintendent, Puyallup School District
- **Service to WASA Award:** Dr. Carol Whitehead, Director, Washington State Leadership Academy
- **Barbara Mertens Legacy Award:** Dr. Bette Hyde, Director, Department of Early Learning (\$1,000 award sponsored by D.A. Davidson & Company)
- **Golden Gavel Award:** Michael A. Patterson, Senior Principal, President, and Founding Attorney of Patterson Buchanan Fobes & Leitch, Inc. P.S.
- **Region Awards:** Several regional awards and milestones also were acknowledged. For a complete list of WASA 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-sized 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:

- **Small District:** Karen Wirkkala, Principal, Naselle-Grays River Valley School District
- **Medium District:** James Everett, Principal, Meridian School District
- **Large District:** Dr. Carl Bruner, Superintendent, Mount Vernon School District

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

The 2015 Dr. Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education was presented to Brian Hart, executive director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment from Sunnyside School District. The \$1,000 scholarship is cosponsored by Piper Jaffray & Company, Seattle-Northwest Division and WASA. Hart was selected for his work to “develop a first-class professional development model that supports every teacher in helping each student make standard and graduate with career and college readiness skills.”

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 more than 1,575 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.*