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2015 Washington State Superintendent of the Year Announced

Auburn School District Superintendent, Dr. Dennis Kip Herren, receives top honor as Washington State's Superintendent of the Year.

OLYMPIA, Washington (November 24, 2014)—Dr. Dennis Kip Herren, Superintendent, Auburn School District, was named the 2015 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The announcement was made Friday, November 21, at WASA's Superintendents Component meeting in Spokane. This award is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents and pay tribute to those who lead our public schools. Herren is also a candidate for the 2015 AASA National Superintendent of the Year award, which will be announced at the AASA National Conference on Education in San Diego, California in February.

Upon learning of the award, Dr. Herren stated:

I am honored and humbled by this WASA award, knowing full well that it recognizes the work of Auburn School District teachers, principals, and district leaders who have proven that all students can achieve high levels of academic performance. I congratulate the school board and community for their role in creating conditions for academic success regardless of demographic or social economics, all for the love of students and their future.

Herren has been in education for 40 years; 35 of those years in the Auburn School District, with seven served as the district's superintendent. The district has 15,000 students with 56 percent poverty, 25 percent Hispanic, and 2,500 English language learners from 65 different first languages. Even with these demographics, the Auburn School District consistently is one of the top achieving school districts in Washington State.

The Auburn School District recently won the Road Map Collective Impact award for closing the achievement gaps; and during the last three years, Auburn schools have won 52 individual

Washington State Achievement Awards due to implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC), a teacher leader academy, distributed leadership, data analysis for continuous improvement, standards-based teaching and reciprocal accountability for learning, and systems innovation—all tenets of how the district does business under Dr. Herren's leadership.

The Auburn School Board nominated Herren for the Superintendent of the Year award; noting, he allows risk-taking and building leadership to determine what best meets the needs of the district's students. In the nomination letter, the Board wrote:

The Auburn School Board is blessed to have Dr. Herren as our superintendent due to his focus on kids, staff, and the Auburn School District patrons. He embodies advocacy, role modeling, leadership, integrity, a hard working attitude, and is not afraid to talk about change. Dr. Kip Herren represents the best in a superintendent. Under his leadership, the Auburn School District is well on its way to fulfilling the aspirations of being a world-class education system.

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.

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