



Thaynan Knowlton

S U P E R I N T E N D E N T

• **SCHOOL DISTRICT**
Clarkston School District

• **ADDRESS**
1294 Chestnut Street
Clarkston, WA 99403

• **WEBSITE**
www.csd12.org

GOALS

IF ELECTED TO SERVE

- **Data-Driven Improvement** – Analyze data from the WASA-administered survey to identify the most pressing needs of state administrators and refine WASA's services accordingly.
- **Enhanced Visibility & Engagement** – Publicize and strategically market the full range of resources and support that WASA provides to its members, ensuring that administrators are aware of and can readily access available assistance.
- **Leadership Support Network** – Strengthen the network of experienced educational leaders by focusing on enhancing leadership wellness and by providing specialized support in key areas such as board relations, levies, bonds, negotiations, staffing, and budgeting.
- **Advocacy for Equitable Funding** – Champion increased and equitable funding for school districts to ensure principals and teachers have the resources necessary to cultivate effective and sustainable learning environments.

Dear WASA Colleagues,

If you've seen the three short videos I've shared, you already have a sense of who I am and what I value. I love this work—and I believe deeply in what WASA stands for. Across our state, leaders like you are doing remarkable things every day on behalf of students. I'm continually inspired by the collective strength, resilience, and heart of our profession.

What I look forward to most, if elected, is the opportunity to listen and learn more about your challenges—and how WASA might support you even more effectively. As I reflect on our shared purpose, I keep coming back to one simple but powerful mission:

Help students improve.

As public educators, that responsibility begins with the student—but it also rests with each of us.

I believe WASA can support this mission by pursuing four essential objectives:

1. Use our data to better understand and respond to member needs,
2. Raise visibility by highlighting the full spectrum of services WASA provides,
3. Support our leaders with targeted, personalized resources, and
4. Advocate boldly for equitable funding and staffing.

Tony Alvarado, a longtime education leader in both New York and California, once shared something that's always stayed with me: *The superintendent's (and central office's) focus should be on the principal's work. The principal's focus should be on the teacher's work. And the teacher's focus should be on the student's work. That kind of alignment—from the district office to the classroom—is where real impact happens.*

When systems align, efforts are magnified and improvement accelerates.

WASA will continue to lead, to build trust, and to advocate—for all of us, equitably. I believe in those values: leadership, trust, advocacy, and equity. And I believe my goals align with yours.

If chosen to serve as your next WASA president-elect, I would be honored to partner with you—to support our students, our staff, and each other.

Thank you,

Thaynan Knowlton





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OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & RECOGNITION

- Tri-State Memorial Hospital Foundation Board member
- Providence Rural Committee Board member
- Rotary International member
- Kettle Falls Downtown Association Vice President
- Paula Gmelch Scholarship in Educational Leadership Award
- George B. Brain Administrative Leadership Award
- Washington State Leadership Academy graduate
- Presented dissertation research on trustworthy leadership in Seattle, Washington

• PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019–Present	Superintendent Clarkston School District
2013–19	Superintendent Kettle Falls School District
2004–13	Principal Goldendale Primary School
2001–04	Director of Assessment, Curriculum, and Instruction Goldendale School District
1998–01	Regional School Improvement/Assessment Trainer ESD 105
1996–03	School Psychologist Goldendale School District
1999–04	Teacher/Facilitator Family Skills Program
1998–01	Presenter/Teacher Columbia Gorge Community College

• EDUCATION

Ed.D. Educational Leadership
Washington State University
Superintendent's Certificate
Washington State University
Principal's Certificate
Heritage University
Program Admin. Certificate
Heritage University
ESA Certificate (School Psych)
Eastern Washington University
M.S. Clinical Psychology
Eastern Washington University
B.A. English/Psychology
Brigham Young University

• WASA SERVICE

- WASA Member
- ESD 123 Regional President
- ESD 123 SAC Superintendent Component Representative
- ESD 101 Leadership Steering Committee

