

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highline Superintendent Named Washington State Superintendent of the Year

Focus on equity and excellence is the top priority for Superintendent Susan Enfield

OLYMPIA — Dr. Susan Enfield, Superintendent of the Highline School District, was named 2022 Superintendent of the Year on Friday by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The announcement was made during WASA’s Fall Superintendent Component meeting in Bellevue.



The award is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents and pay tribute to those who lead Washington’s public schools.

“Since 2012, when Dr. Enfield was named superintendent of the Highline Public Schools, she has led with a consistent and unrelenting focus on achieving more equitable outcomes for all students in the district,” said WASA Executive Director Joel Aune. “Through the development of a strategic plan that includes a bold vision for all students, there is a system-wide commitment to equity that includes eliminating racism, racial and other identity inequities, and institutional bias.”

Aune added, “Dr. Enfield walks the talk when it comes to the Highline Promise: ‘Every student is known by name, strength, and need, and graduates prepared for the future they choose.’ This promise, and more importantly the actions that flow from it, is driving steady and marked improvement in Highline as evidenced by a number of data points, including improved graduation rates—where students of color have achieved the greatest gains. Dr. Enfield’s work in leading, inspiring, innovating, and mobilizing the community is making a difference for kids.”

“We congratulate Susan and the entire Highline school community on this well-deserved honor,” said Aune.

Enfield expressed honor for this recognition, not only for herself, but for the entire Highline community. “District leadership is a team sport, and we have the very best team in Highline Public Schools,” said Enfield. “So, while this award is for Superintendent of the Year, I really see it as celebrating the school

district and community of the year, and for me that is Highline. It is a privilege to live, lead and serve here and I am grateful for this honor.”

Enfield and her team have developed a strategic plan for equity policy, focusing on “eliminating racism, racial and other identity inequities, and institutional bias.”

Highline School District has 35 schools, with 18,858 students in grades K-12, and employs 1,475 certificated and 1,128 classified staff—along with 137 classified subs and 193 certificated subs.

Dr. Enfield joined Highline in 2012. Prior to her role at Highline, she worked as a director in the Office of Teaching and Learning and Deputy Superintendent in Portland and Vancouver, Washington, and later as Chief Academic Officer and Interim Superintendent for Seattle Public Schools.

Enfield received her doctorate in education and master’s degree in Education Administration and Social Policy through Harvard University. She holds a Master of Arts in Education from Stanford University, and a bachelor’s degree in English Literature from the University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to her educational experience, Enfield has held office and membership for The College Board’s Board of Trustees; Code.org Board of Directors; Editorial Projects in Education Board of Trustees; and Digital Promise League of Innovative Schools Advisory Committee. She has had leadership roles with the Highline Schools Foundation Board and Highline Hospital Foundation Board.

Enfield was previously recognized for 2020 AASA Women in School Leadership Award; 2020 Washington State PTA Educator of the Year; 2019 National School Foundation Superintendent of the Year; and 2019 Crystal Apple Award from Washington School Public Relations Association.

As the state’s Superintendent of the Year, Enfield will be a candidate for the 2022 American Association of School Administrators’ National Superintendent of the Year Award. The national award will be announced in February during the AASA National Conference on Education in Nashville, Tennessee.

In conjunction with the award, Washington’s Superintendent of the Year will receive a \$1,000 check from D.A. Davidson & Company to use toward a school or educational program of their choice.

Recent recipients of the WASA Superintendent of the Year Award include:

- 2021: Michelle Reid, Northshore SD (Also named National Superintendent of the Year)
- 2020: Greg Baker, Bellingham PS
- 2019: Michael Nelson, Enumclaw SD
- 2018: Frank Hewins, Franklin Pierce SD
- 2017: Gary Cohn, Everett PS

For a complete list of Washington state’s Superintendents of the Year, [click here](#).

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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