



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Joel Aune  
Washington Association of School Administrators  
360.943.5717  
jaune@wasa-oly.org  
[www.wasa-oly.org](http://www.wasa-oly.org)

**WASA Recognizes Outstanding Educational Leaders at the  
2019 WASA/AWSP Summer Conference**

*Washington state educators celebrate successes, focus on leadership,  
equity, and opportunity for our state's students*

**SPOKANE** — More than 850 school superintendents, central office administrators, and principals from across Washington state gathered in Spokane this past week to attend the 39th annual Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) and Association of Washington School Principals' (AWSP) Summer Conference. The theme of this year's conference, "Make a Difference," focused on school leaders' passion for excellence, diversity and equity, and school safety for Washington's students. The event took place June 30–July 2 at the Spokane Convention Center.

Keynote speakers and breakout sessions addressed topics such as leadership development, equity, using data and coaching for sustained improvement, and meeting the needs of all students. The event also played host to WASA's 2019 Honorary Awards Luncheon where WASA state-level awards, the Piper Jaffray Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education and the PEMCO Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator awards were also presented.

"This year's award recipients exemplify WASA's core tenants of Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy," said WASA Executive Director Joel Aune. "Their contributions toward the advancement of public education here in the state of Washington are truly making a difference for children and young people. Our recognition program, with generous support from long-time sponsors, strives to highlight the very best in leadership, commitment to public education, and service to children," he said.

"The sustained dedication to supporting schools and leading for excellence by this year's award recipients has served to make our schools better for the young people who attend them. On behalf of WASA, it is my pleasure to congratulate each of the recipients and thank them for their work and service to children and young people across the entire state. They are all deserving of this

prestigious recognition.”

Those receiving special recognition this year included:

### **WASA State Level Awards**

- WASA Leadership Award: **Dr. Randy Russell, Superintendent, Freeman School District**
- Service to WASA Award: **Mike Colbrese, Executive Director, Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA)**
- D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award: **Amy Bragdon, Hagan Foundation**
- Golden Gavel Award: **Dr. Gene Sharratt, Executive Director of the OSPI/AESD Network**
- Regional Awards: Several regional awards and milestones were also acknowledged. For a complete list of WASA regional awards, visit the [WASA website](#).

### **PEMCO 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-size school district (501–2,000 students), and large school district (over 2,000 students). A \$10,500 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:

- Large District: **Janel Keating Hambly, Superintendent, White River School District**
- Medium-Size District: **Dr. Ken Russell, Superintendent, Riverside School District**
- Small District: **Chad Prewitt, Principal, Davenport School District**

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

The 2019 Doyle E. Winter Scholarship for Administrative Leadership in Education was presented to **Amy McLaughlin, Director of Special Programs, Finley School District**.

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](#) 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 over 1,675 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.*