



□ **WASA's Newest Assistant Executive Director**

Dear WASA Members,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I announce the appointment of Mr. Shawn Batstone as the Assistant Executive Director for Professional Learning at WASA. Shawn brings to our team a wealth of experience, dedication, and visionary leadership in the field of educational administration and professional development.

He has served as Assistant Superintendent in the Tumwater School District since 2019. Prior to that, Shawn was superintendent for nine years in the Hood Canal School District. His leadership background also includes time as Director of Teaching and Learning in the Yelm Community Schools, and experience as a principal and assistant principal.

Shawn has demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to education throughout his career. His work in fostering growth, equity, and excellence in education aligns perfectly with our mission at WASA.

Selected from a deep pool of candidates, Shawn was among those interviewed for the position last week. I want to thank WASA Board members who served on the interview team: Mike Villarreal, Michelle Whitney, Bob Maxwell, Linda McKay, Denise Daniels, Matt Yarkosky, and John Sander.

In his new role, Shawn will work beside Kim Fry to lead our efforts in providing cutting-edge professional learning opportunities, resources, and support for school district leaders across our state. Shawn's vision for the future of public education and the role of professional learning in supporting school district leaders is aligned with the evolving needs of the WASA membership. His focus on adapting to change, promoting equity and inclusion, building leadership capacity, fostering collaboration and partnership, and emphasizing data-informed decision-making will serve to further strengthen our support system for WASA members.

Please join me in welcoming Shawn Batstone to our team. We are confident that his leadership will propel WASA's mission forward and contribute significantly to the success of school district leaders and the communities they serve. He is eager to build on the incredible foundation of support that Mike Nelson has developed and provided for our association members during his time at WASA.

Best regards,

G. Joel Aune
Executive Director



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