

WASA HOTLINE

WINTER EDITION | JANUARY 2021

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PAGE 2

- Seeking Nominations for WASA Board of Directors' Positions
- President-elect for Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents

PAGE 3

- 2021–22 WASA President-elect Nominations
- Dr. Michelle Reid 2021 SOY
- Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship
- PEMCO Robert J. Handy Awards
- Are You Connected to WASA

PAGE 4

- 2021 Legislative Session—Time to Engage!
- Legislative Podcast
- *TWIO—This Week In Olympia*

PAGE 5

- WASA Statewide Award Recipients
- WASA Board Meeting Minutes
- 2021 Legislative Session Guide

PAGE 6

- Professional Learning, Academies & Inclusionary Practices

PAGE 7

- Professional Learning, Academies & Inclusionary Practices
- Future Events

PAGE 8

- Professional Learning, Academies & Inclusionary Practices
- Northwest Reception

PAGE 9

- Upcoming Awards & Scholarships
- AASA Corner
- Upload Membership Photo

PAGE 10

- Welcome New Members
- Contact WASA

From the President



Brian Talbott
WASA President

Hello Friends and Colleagues,

I hope this edition of the *WASA Hotline* finds you rested and ready as we slide into the New Year. I, for one, am grateful that the preceding year has come to an end.

Perhaps my optimistic nature is getting ahead of me; however, I believe that 2021 will, and must, be better. That being said, I wish to commend you for your incredible and courageous efforts to provide solid educational opportunities for our students. While none of us signed up for this pandemic, you have risen to every challenge.

Throughout the course of my tenure, I have heard Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director, Government Relations, tell me/us that “This is THE year to communicate and advocate the WASA Legislative Platform locally, regionally, and statewide.” Dan’s thoughts are not redundant, but rather reinforce the necessity for us to embrace our professional obligation by telling our district’s unique story while also contributing to our collective message. Although our districts have specific challenges, there are far more similarities than differences.

Right around this time last year, I was working with the executive team to establish my goal of unabashedly wrapping our arms around the Advocacy portion of WASA’s tagline. My focus was, and continues to be engaging more of our membership (approximately 75 percent of WASA members are non-superintendents) in this endeavor. It was only a few short weeks later that we learned of the profound ramifications that COVID would have on each student, staff, and community member.

As you know, our Legislature convenes for a long session on January 11, and it will most definitely look different than any of those that have come before it. Like many

of our school district delivery models, it has been determined that our elected officials will be primarily working remotely. This process will look and feel alien to many of us who have made the trek to Olympia to meet with legislators and/or to testify. On a positive note, these unique circumstances will provide more of an opportunity for our membership to become involved. As mentioned before, Dan would say to each of us, “If ever there was a time to engage, it is right now.”

As one WASA member to another, I not only invite you to join this effort, but respectfully implore that you do just that! I thank you for your relentless and unwavering call to action always, and particularly, right now. You are the one... east, west, big, small, urban, or rural; every child needs an advocate and a champion.

With much gratitude,

Brian L. Talbott

From the Executive Director



Happy New Year WASA Colleagues,

To say 2020 was a difficult and stressful endeavor, is an understatement to say the least. And while there remains an abundance of challenges

for today and in the months to come, 2021 promises to present some encouraging opportunities as the return to in-person learning becomes reality.

2020 provided a load of opportunities to lead, solve problems, and most importantly, learn. School leaders, teachers, and support staff were thrust out of their comfort zones when dealing with the harsh realities of the pandemic and real-time implementation of a remote delivery model for student

Continued on next page.

learning. The pandemic provided us a view of the system that amplified the inequities within in our schools and school districts. It shined a bright light on the inequalities rooted in our communities, while remote learning provided us a window into the homes and lives of our students and their families.

2020 was rich with learnings about our schools, communities, students, and families. It was also abundant with opportunities and discoveries about how schools might look different, post-pandemic. While there are extensive problems and issues yet to be resolved with the remote learning model, the pandemic yielded a multitude of examples of new “best practice” and amazing work exemplars that can be replicated in the future.

As we slowly work our way through, and out of the pandemic, there will be a strong pull to “return back to normal”; immense pressure to slide back to the way things were. School systems have shown themselves to be incredibly pliable and innovative during the past 10 months. But system-memory will draw back, with intense force, to the pre-pandemic status-quo. We do not have to go back to the way things were, though.

There is an opportunity here, but it will be somewhat fleeting; an opportunity to initiate or continue honest discussions about systemic barriers to equity for all students in our schools; an opportunity to think differently about content, when and how instruction and learning opportunities are provided for kids, creative and intentional utilization of technology, family engagement, measurement of student learning, grading, and system flexibility to meet students where THEY are.

As leaders, how will you position your community and the system to move forward toward a new vision for schooling—to stave off the desire and pressure to return to the way things were?

Bringing students back into the schoolhouse will be a joyous occasion for them and for you. There are so many essential elements of the school experience that cannot be replicated in a fully remote delivery model. And yet, I am hopeful the learnings of the past 10 months can be skillfully leveraged, post COVID, to make schools better than ever before.

The pandemic has provided a unique opening for leaders to drive substantive change. There is now both the opportunity and responsibility to take a deep and honest look at long-standing policies, practices, and systems. I believe this is your next leadership challenge; a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform schools into places we have for many years aspired them to be. I also believe this window of opportunity, while wide open today, will slowly begin to close during the course of the new year 2021. So now is the time to initiate or advance the conversation and the work, with an aim toward a new and different future for schools and the students in them.

This transformational work will, without question, not be easy. But our students are worth it. And I have no doubt you are up to the task.

Respectfully,

Joel Aune



Seeking Nominations for WASA Board of Directors' Positions

WASA is seeking nominations for the following Board of Directors' leadership positions.

Terms begin July 1, 2021.

- Superintendents Component Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Instructional Program Administrators Component (IPAC) Chair-elect (3-year commitment)
- Business and Personnel Administrators Component (BPAC) Chair-elect (2-year commitment)
- Special Education Component Chair (2-year commitment)

If you are interested in filling one of these WASA Board positions or making a nomination, please contact [Joel Aune](#) by February 12, 2021.

Balderas named President-elect of Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents



Dr. Gustavo Balderas has been named president-elect of the [Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents \(ALAS\)](#).

Balderas began his job as Edmonds School District superintendent in July. He has worked in education for more than 27 years including as superintendent of the Eugene School District in Oregon, the Ocean View School District in Huntington Beach, Calif., and the Madera Unified School District in Madera, Calif.

The Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents is a national non-profit organization with the mission to provide leadership at the national level that assures every school in America effectively serves the educational needs of all students with an emphasis on Latino/a/x youth.

Nominations for 2021–22 WASA President-elect

WASA Past President Krestin Bahr is seeking nominees for 2021–22 WASA President-elect election. Nominees must presently serve on the east side of Washington. Nominations can be made by regions, individuals, or by self-nomination.

The deadline to submit a nomination is January 26, 2021.

The campaign will include information in the *WASA Hotline*, *WASA News*, WASA website, candidate brochures emailed to all WASA members, and candidate speeches given during the WASA Honorary Awards Luncheon at the 2021 WASA • AWSP Summer Conference.

Electronic ballots will be emailed on Sunday, August 1, 2021.

Nominations may be forwarded to Krestin Bahr, Superintendent, Eatonville School District, by [email](#) or phone 360.879.1026.

Dr. Michelle Reid Selected 2021 Washington Superintendent of the Year



On November 18, at a special virtual presentation, the announcement was made that Dr. Michelle Reid, Superintendent, Northshore School District, is Washington's 2021 Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Reid is a candidate for the AASA National Superintendent of the Year. The national award recipient will be announced on February 18, 2021, during the 2021 AASA National Conference on Education.

Dr. Reid expressed her gratitude for the honor and for the opportunity to work with the entire Northshore community.

"The opportunity to be a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year, especially this year, is bigger than just me. It represents everyone in our state and community who has walked beside me every step of the way," said Reid. "This award recognizes the work of each of our curious and hard-working students, our inspiring and innovative staff, our visionary school board, our generous community partners, and our thoughtfully engaged families who call our Northshore School District home. I am proud of what we have accomplished together and look forward to continuing our collaborative work toward a system that is based on racial and educational justice and excellence for all students."

"In our house, we understand that learning happens best in community, and for the strength, resilience, and perseverance lived out every day throughout our community, I am eternally grateful," she said. "I am deeply honored to accept this award on behalf of all the dedicated educational leaders in our state and want to remind us across this great country, that together; all things are possible."

Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship for Under-Represented Educational Leaders

Created in honor of Dr. Howard M. Coble, former WASA Executive Director, this scholarship assists under-represented educators in pursuing graduate studies that prepare for central office leadership positions. A \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to one educator pursuing graduate studies in education leadership by the fall of 2021.

Applications will be available on the WASA website on February 17. Deadline to submit an application is March 29, 2021.

For questions, contact Shari Parsons by [email](#) or phone 360.489.3641.

PEMCO Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards

Three awards are presented each year to a highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator from a small, medium, and large school district. The \$10,500 award is equally divided among the winners. The award may be used for personal or professional growth and/or to support and disseminate information about a successful school or district program. Nominees must be active members of AWSP or WASA to be eligible. Nomination applications for the PEMCO Robert J. Handy Most Effective Administrator Awards will open on January 28, 2021.

Applications will be available on the WASA website on January 28. Deadline to submit an application is March 18, 2021.

For questions, contact Shari Parsons by [email](#) or phone 360.489.3641.



ARE YOU CONNECTED TO WASA?

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for information on upcoming conferences and workshops, legislative news and updates, and school news.

2021 Legislative Session—Time to Engage!

The 2021 Legislature convened on January 11 for its first year of the 67th Biennial Session. Scheduled for 105 days, legislators must craft a new two-year budget amidst a revenue shortfall—in the middle of an ongoing pandemic. Due to the pandemic, the session will have a completely different look, as legislators move to a mostly “virtual” session. This is only one reason school administrators need to step up and be engaged.

Given the state’s current fiscal condition, there will be significant conversations about budget reductions. Technically, basic education is constitutionally exempt from cuts; however, K–12 will not be exempt from the discussion of reductions. In fact, most school districts have seen reductions in student enrollment and pupil transportation ridership. Because of these current circumstances, legislators will be able to capture a significant amount of basic education “savings.” Without protections, the resultant funding reductions will dramatically impact districts’ ability to maintain appropriate programs and staffing. Non-basic education items, such as Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”), may be politically difficult to reduce, but there are no legal protections and could become targets if large budget cuts become necessary.

With the session going “remote,” school administrators will not have the ability to meet in-person with local legislators. This, however, is a reason to be more engaged than ever before, rather than an excuse not to engage in the legislative process. You need to “tell your stories,” so legislators understand your concerns and your needs are not forgotten.

To support your advocacy efforts, WASA has provided—and will continue to provide—tools and resources to assist you in engaging with legislators. This includes [WASA’s 2021 Legislative Platform](#) and a common set of legislative priorities from the [School Funding Coalition](#), comprised of seven education management associations representing the voices of nearly 8,000 school district leaders. The close alignment between WASA’s Platform and the Coalition’s priorities will assist WASA members and our education partners to advocate with one voice on education funding issues. The Coalition has also developed “[talking points](#)” to accompany the priorities.

After the session begins, be sure to follow WASA’s legislative newsletter, [This Week in Olympia \(TWIO\)](#), and WASA’s [legislative podcast](#). Both resources provide up-to-date information on the key issues school administrators are following. TWIO provides in-depth details, while the podcast is a short, easily digested, high-level update.

In 2021, our hope is that all WASA members—not just superintendents, but ALL administrators—participate in the legislative process. Whether you are experienced in legislative advocacy or a novice, you are encouraged to engage. We understand some of you may not be comfortable in the legislative arena, but by utilizing the tools noted above, advocacy does not have to be a mystifying experience. If you still feel anxious about engaging, however, we encourage you to take some time to review our recent advocacy webinar, “Finding Your Voice: The Importance of Legislative Advocacy.” Both the in-depth [PowerPoint](#) and the [recorded presentation](#) are available on the WASA website. They will help you easily jump into the process and effectively advocate for your schools, your students, and your colleagues.

WASA LEGISLATIVE PODCAST with Dan Steele

Throughout the 2021 Legislative Session, Assistant Executive Director Dan Steele will be posting short, informative podcast episodes on a regular basis. This podcast focuses on key legislative issues to keep WASA members informed of hot topics and emerging conversations in Olympia. Learn how to subscribe by visiting <https://wasa-oly.org/LegPodcast>.

TWIO: This Week in Olympia



Don't forget to check out the latest news happening in Olympia every Friday during session! Your copy of *This Week In Olympia* is waiting in your email inbox and online at www.wasa-oly.org/twio.

2020 WASA Statewide Award Recipients



Golden Gavel Award

Elissa Dyson,
School Board Chair,
Onion Creek School District



D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award

Dr. Gene Sementi,
Retired Superintendent,
West Valley (Spokane) School District



WASA Leadership Award

Kim Fry,
Superintendent,
Rochester School District



Service to WASA Award

Melissa Gombosky,
AESD Consultant

"The WASA awards program seeks to identify and highlight the very best in leadership for, and commitment to, public education," said Joel Aune, WASA Executive Director. "This year's award recipients are indeed shining examples of individuals who are making significant contributions toward the advancement of public education here in the state of Washington."

"On behalf of WASA, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate each of the recipients and thank them for their work and service to children and young people in schools across the entire state. Their extraordinary dedication to our schools, and more importantly, the students in them, is the gold standard," said Aune.

For a complete list of WASA State and Region Awards, [visit the WASA website.](#)

WASA Board Minutes in Brief—December 2, 2020

The Board approved the following:

- Consent Calendar, November 2020 Comparative Membership Report; WASA Board Minutes, October 5, 2020; and Income Statement and Balance Sheet, September 2020.

The Executive Director's Report included:

- 2020–21 WASA Goals, Action Steps, and Tasks
- 2021–22 WASA President-elect Nomination Process
- 2021–22 WASA Board of Directors' Vacant Positions

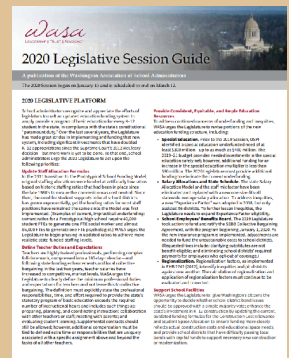
The WASA Assistant Executives provided reports on:

- Just in Time Zoom Webinars
- Professional Learning Data
- ERNN
- Management Reviews
- SIRS
- Mentor Support
- Bargaining
- Legislative Update
- WASA Legislative Engagement Strategy

The next WASA Board meeting will be held by Zoom on February 21, 2021, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Watch for the 2021 Legislative Session Guide Coming Soon!

Engage with your legislators during this session 67th Biennial Session of the Washington State Legislature. Use the Session Guide to align your messages with WASA's 2021 Legislative Platform and find up-to-date contact information.



Professional Learning, Academies, and Inclusionary Practices Project Updates

We miss being face to face but as we navigate the pandemic, our events will continue to shift to virtual until we know it is safe to come together again

Please contact Mike Nelson at mnelson@wasa-oly.org or Jamie Chylinski at jchylinski@wasa-oly.org with academy or professional learning questions.

[View/download our event calendar.](#)

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



Registration is open now for the 2021 WASA • WSSDA • WASBO Legislative Conference and Week on the Hill.

The 2021 Legislative Session will look different than anything we have ever seen before, as legislators move to a mostly “virtual” session. What will not be new is the ongoing concern about education impacts from legislative decisions. With a potentially difficult state fiscal situation, budget reductions will be contemplated—and K–12 education will not be exempt from the conversation.

Amid a pandemic which will present unique challenges to legislative engagement, it will be essential for education leaders to actively participate in the legislative process to ensure our needs are not forgotten. Additionally, it will be critical, perhaps more than ever before, for education leaders to speak with one voice.

The WASA • WSSDA • WASBO Legislative Conference is your opportunity to hear updates on our shared legislative priorities, the current education policy landscape, and how to effectively advocate for our needs. We encourage you to join your colleagues for this important event.

Now, more than ever, your participation is crucial. This is your opportunity to hear updates on our shared legislative priorities and the current education policy landscape.

February 1, 1–5 p.m. via Zoom

Sunday’s program will include:

Advocacy Efforts

WASA, WSSDA, and WASBO Presidents

State of the State of Education

Chris Reykdal, Superintendent of Public Instruction, OSPI

Governor’s Education Priorities

Governor Jay Inslee (recorded)

The State Budget: A Deeper Dive

Emily Makings, Washington Research Council

Interviews with Legislators

To be named

Advocacy and Sharing your Story Keynote

John Draper, NSPRA Consultant

Hot Topics with Q&A

- Dan Steele, Asst Executive Director, Government Relations, WASA
Marissa Rathbone, Director, Strategic Advocacy, WSSDA

The finalized agenda will be posted at www.wasa-oly.org/Leg21 as soon as it is available.



Registration now open. Don’t miss John Krownapple, featured keynote, at our Winter Conference being held January 26, via Zoom!

KEYNOTE

John Krownapple specializes in facilitating professional learning and organizational development focused on social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. In his book *Guiding Teams to Excellence with Equity: Culturally Proficient Facilitation*, he offers the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for helping schools and systems experience equitable change. In November 2019, John and his co-author, Dr. Floyd Cobb, wrote, “Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity: Keys to Successful Equity Implementation” through Mimi & Todd Press, Inc.

Registrants will receive a copy of “Belonging Through a Culture of Dignity: Keys to Successful Equity Implementation.”

COMMUNITY BOOK DISCUSSIONS

Two community book discussions are scheduled for conference participants to enhance our learning time with the author during the conference, and to support all of us leading equity. The session dates are January 21, and February 2, 12–1 p.m.

OTHER SPEAKERS

You don’t want to miss our incredible presenters! The conference features the following Washington State educators:

- * Keisha Scarlett and Mia Williams, Seattle Public Schools: African American Male Initiative
- * Julie Perron and Wade Smith, Walla Walla Public Schools: From School Board to Community—Creating a Culture Where all Stakeholders Have a Seat, a Voice, and a Responsibility for Change
- * Gustavo Balderas, Edmonds School District: High-Level Insights to Equity Work

Register and learn more now at www.wasa-oly.org/Winter21.



2021 ERNN Basic Bargaining Workshop

Wednesdays in February via Zoom

ERNN BASIC BARGAINING WORKSHOP

This online series of webinars is a great opportunity for district negotiators to acquire a basic level of understanding about bargaining strategies and techniques. It is designed for first time members of your district bargaining team or anyone wanting to refresh their bargaining skills before going to the table in 2021. The course is split into four one-hour sessions that will occur each Wednesday morning, 8:30–9:30 a.m., during the month of February.

REGISTRATION

Complimentary for ERNN district members, \$99 (series) per person for non-members.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

AUDIENCE

Those who sit at bargaining table, not limited to superintendents.

SESSIONS

Session One: Bargaining Law
Session Two: Reviewing your CBA and Getting Ready to Bargain
Session Three: Writing Proposals and Going to the Table
Session Four: At the Table and Getting a Settlement

PRESENTERS

Warren Hopkins, Executive Director, ERNN
Lorraine Wilson, Attorney, Porter Foster Rorick
Mike Parker, Retired Superintendent, Consultant
Patty Page, Retired Superintendent, Consultant

Future Event Updates

2021 Spring Conference for Small Schools Leaders

The conference will be held virtually, March 22–23, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. daily. Stay tuned for details. Registration opens mid to late January!

2021 WASA • WSSDA • AWSP Equity Conference

After canceling last year's conference due to the pandemic, we are excited to share the conference will return in 2021! The conference will be hosted virtually on May 18–19, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. daily. Registration opens in early March.

2021 Women in Leadership Conference

Watch for event details in the new year!

2021 Superintendent Conference

Event details will be available in late January.

2021 WASA • AWSP Summer Conference

Stay tuned for details coming early February!

COMING SOON—SAVE THE DATES



2021 ERNN Annual Workshop

Three-part Series via Zoom

2021 ERNN ANNUAL WORKSHOP

ERNN's Annual Workshop is back in 2021 with a new format. The workshop content will be delivered virtually as a statewide event over a three-week period, one session per week, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

Each session will cover the specific and relevant bargaining topics listed below, and more, to get you and your team ready for the 2021 bargaining season.

- March 24—Review of the previous bargaining season; what can we anticipate from the Legislature; and the new world of virtual bargaining.
- March 31—Language pitfalls—what to avoid; review of RIF language; bargaining with limited funds; and take back bargaining.
- April 7—Another look at the Legislature; issues coming to the table; and lasting impacts of COVID MOU's.

Registration opens January 26 at www.wasa-oly.org/ERNN21 (site is under construction until then).

View details at www.wasa-oly.org/EquitableSystems



Bargaining Updates

Join us for another complimentary Zoom on February 5, 12–1 p.m. for the latest bargaining updates from a panel of attorneys and bargainers. Registration opens in January.



Superintendent Component Series: *Thinking Beyond*

January 22, 2021	12–1 p.m.
March 12, 2021	12–1 p.m.
May 21, 2021	12–1 p.m.

Come to a unique series of collaboration with Superintendent colleagues from across the state as we *think beyond...* knowing.

- We must lead for the future after the pandemic.
- We must empower educators as instructional designers in the post pandemic world to challenge the systems and structures of public education to meet the needs of each of Washington's students.
- We must first strive to treat ourselves with dignity and respect while leading others.

*Registration for this free series opens January 11, 2021!!

Session Reminders

Reminders for professional learning already in motion. Participants in these programs will receive further communication via email.



The first Hanover Equitable Systems cohort workshop is on January 19. The first interim check-in session is on February 9, 8:30–9:30 a.m. Workshop 2 will be held March 9, 8:30–10:30 a.m.



Session 2 of the WASA Leaders: Racial Equity is on January 12, 8–10 a.m. Session 3 will be held March 2, 8–10 a.m.

Inclusionary Practices Statewide Support for District Change



Exciting news—we are launching a new, condensed Cohort 3 in 2021! Cohort participation will be open to districts not already participating in our project.

Superintendents watch for your email the week of January 6 for full details. Registration will be open January 6–27.

Want to learn more about this opportunity now? Contact Helene Paroff at 509.953.9512 or hparoff@wasa-oly.org.

Academies



Upcoming sessions will be held on January 11, February 8, and March 29.

Learn more about the Mentor Academy at www.wasa-oly.org/MA.

Learn more about the Early Career Superintendent Academy at www.wasa-oly.org/ECSA.



Upcoming sessions are on January 14, February 18, and March 25, 8:30–10 a.m.

Learn more about the Special Education Director Academy at www.wasa-oly.org/SPEDA.



Next sessions are January 28 and February 11, 9–11:30 a.m.; March 4, 9–10:30 a.m.; and March 18, 9–11:30 a.m.

View the schedule at www.wasa-oly.org/ASA.

Northwest Reception

ALASKA MONTANA OREGON WASHINGTON

FEBRUARY 18, 2021 | ZOOM

5–6 p.m. (PST)

SPONSOR RECOGNITION



D|A DAVIDSON



FORECAST⁵
ANALYTICS

PIPER | SANDLER

Transact



The state associations would also like to recognize their continuing partnership with



[Click Here to Register to Attend](#)

Upcoming Awards & Scholarships

PEMCO ROBERT J. HANDY MOST EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR AWARDS

One highly effective superintendent, central office administrator, or building administrator will be selected from a small district (up to 500 students), medium-sized district (501–2,000 students), and large district (over 2,000 students).

Application Timeline: January 28–March 18, 2021

GALLAGHER HOWARD M. COBLE SCHOLARSHIP FOR UNDER-REPRESENTED EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

Designed to assist talented, under-represented educators to pursue graduate studies that prepare for central office leadership positions.

Application Timeline: February 17–March 29, 2021

PIPER SANDLER DOYLE E. WINTER SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION

Designed to assist talented and committed educational administrators as they enhance skills and abilities needed to serve as educational leaders in the field of K–12 public education.

Application Timeline: March 2–April 23, 2021

WASA HONORARY AWARDS * STATE AWARDS

The state awards include the Golden Gavel, D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy, Service to WASA, and WASA Leadership.

Application Timeline: February 22–May 3, 2021

* REGION AWARDS

These awards are managed at the region level and include the Award of Merit, WASA Student Achievement Leadership, Twenty-Year, Retirement, and Community Leadership.

Application Timeline: February 22–May 2021
(deadlines vary by region)

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

The Superintendent of the Year program is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, frontline superintendents.

Application Timeline: May 1–October 1, 2021

To review the criteria for the various awards, visit the [WASA website](#). Watch future editions of *Hotline* or the *WASA News* for information on award opportunities.

AASA CORNER

2021 National Conference on Education

The 2021 National Conference on Education will be held virtually for your safety and convenience on February 18–19, 2021. Planned are 72 education sessions, spanning three tracks—Social and Emotional Learning, Equity in Education, and Return to School/Safety. The theme for this year's conference, "Social Emotional Learning Focusing on the Total Child." To register for the conference, visit the [AASA website](#).



UPLOAD YOUR MEMBERSHIP PHOTO

If you haven't already, please help us keep our membership directory up to date by taking a moment to upload your photo to your WASA member profile page. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Tricia McCosh at pmccosh@wasa-oly.org.

Welcome New Members!

Nicole Anderson, Arlington PS
Jennifer Kniseley, Bainbridge Island SD
Kristin Ray, Bethel SD
Michelle Chaney, Bethel SD
Jessie Sprouse, Carbonado SD
Corey Groh, Central Valley SD
Karen Hay, Central Valley SD
Mandi Rehn, Central Valley SD
Kimberly Lefler, Cheney PS
Kevin Ikeda, Clover Park SD
Holly Patton, Clover Park SD
Heather Murray, College Place SD
Diane Heersink, Eatonville SD
Mary O'Brien, Everett PS
Mandy Shinn, Everett PS
Lauren Weeden, Everett PS
Sharon Williams, Federal Way PS
Amy McLaughlin, Finley SD
Lisa Escobar, Highline PS
Shajaira López, Highline PS
Colin Ryan, Highline PS
Stacey Zachau, Issaquah SD
Heather Ogden, Kelso SD
Heather Burfeind, Kittitas SD
Ronald Craig, Kittitas SD
Camille Alexander, Lake Washington SD
Forrest Baker, Lake Washington SD
Dana Greenberg, Lake Washington SD
Joy Ross, Lake Washington SD
Emily Young, Lake Washington SD
Karen Joy, Longview PS
Kimberly Rayl, Mabton SD
Christine Bromley, Marysville SD
Josh Westermann, Mead SD
Chris Cronas, Monroe SD
Mike Gallagher, Mukilteo SD

Shelly Henderson, Mukilteo SD
Lynn Konkol, Mukilteo SD
Maria Pena, Mukilteo SD
John Mannix, Mukilteo SD
Heather, Tow-Yick, Mukilteo SD
Kari Lewinsohn, North Thurston PS
Melissa Riley, Northshore SD
Andrea Downs, NWESD 189
Frank Wilson, Olympia SD
Lynne Rosellini, Orting SD
Alice Amaya, Pasco SD
Brandon Williamson, Pasco SD
Kimberly Powell, Pioneer SD
Michelle Olsen, Port Angeles SD
Lisa Rodside, Puyallup SD
Linda Hoste, Renton SD
Carolann Gutierrez, Republic SD
Linda Achondo, Royal SD
Heather Quigley, Royal SD
Jodi Harmon, Spokane PS
Bernadine Mahar, St. Mary Magdalen
Gerry Grubbs, Starbuck SD
Tabitha Ellison, Steilacoom Historical SD
Shawn Lewis, Steilacoom Historical SD
Traci Donohue, Sumner-Bonney Lake SD
Audra Walters, Sumner-Bonney Lake SD
Cody Gardiner, Sunnyside SD
Jeremy Berliiss, Vancouver PS
Matthew Greco, Vancouver PS
Lisa Reed, Vancouver PS
rent Freeman, Wahkiakum SD
Renae Burson, Washougal SD
Tabatha Mires, Waterville SD
Donald Hay, Wishkah Valley SD
Kurt Fourre, Yelm CS



Do you know someone who wants to join WASA? Tell them to visit [online](#) and sign up today!

Contact WASA

GENERAL INFORMATION

360.943.5717 / 800.859.9272

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

360.489.3641 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Joel Aune, Executive Director
jaune@wasa-oly.org
- Shari Parsons, Executive Assistant
sparsons@wasa-oly.org

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

360.489.3642

- Dan Steele, Assistant Executive Director
dsteele@wasa-oly.org
- Sheila Chard, Administrative Assistant
schard@wasa-oly.org

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

& MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

360.489.3640 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Mike Nelson, Assistant Executive Director
mnelson@wasa-oly.org
- Jamie Chylinski, Professional Learning Coordinator
jchylinski@wasa-oly.org
- Lisa Gehman, Professional Learning/ Membership Assistant
lgehman@wasa-oly.org
- Tricia McCosh, Communications
pmccosh@wasa-oly.org

ACCOUNTING

360.489.3643 / 360.352.6873 (fax)

- Eve Johnson, Accountant
ejohnson@wasa-oly.org

MEMBER SUPPORT & ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS

360.489.3646

- Andy Wolf, Assistant Executive Director
awolf@wasa-oly.org

2020–21 WASA OFFICERS

President: Brian Talbott, Nine Mile Falls
President-elect: Aaron Leavell, Bremerton
Past President: Krestin Bahr, Eatonville
Secretary: Jennifer Bethman, Bethel
Treasurer: Henry Strom, Grandview