

WASA NEWS

March 2021—Edition 1



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **WASA/AESD The Road Ahead: A Peer-to-Peer Networking Event Secondary Reopening**
March 3, Webinar, 2–3:30 p.m.
This event is open to district superintendents, district leadership teams, and those leading secondary reopening efforts in districts.
[General Session Kick-off link](#)
- **2021 WASA · WSSDA · WASBO Legislative Advocacy in a Virtual World**
Regional Planning Meetings:
March 8–12, Virtual
Contact [WSSDA](#) with any questions or concerns.
Week on the Hill:
March 15–19, Virtual
Contact [WSSDA](#) with questions related to Week on the Hill.
- **Superintendent Component Series: Thinking Beyond**
March 12, 2021, 12–1 p.m.
May 21, 2021, 12–1 p.m.
Click [here](#) to register.
- **WASA Spring Conference for Small Schools: Leading With Impact**
March 22–23, Virtual
8:30 a.m.–12 p.m., Daily
Click [here](#) to register.

Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Reid, National Superintendent of the Year!

Click to view [the video](#) of AASA's announcement. To view the virtual Northwest Reception click [here](#).

"Recognition is not a scarce resource. You can't use it up or run out of it."

-Susan M. Heathfield

Friends and Colleagues,

The [WASA Honorary Awards](#) Committee has finalized plans for this year's effort to recognize individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to public education. We all know that community support and involvement is one of the essential ingredients in the making of great schools and great school districts.

Are you able to pause and find a bit of time to recognize these community heroes—people who love students, schools, and public education? Has there ever been a time when it more important to highlight these amazing people and tell their stories?

The pandemic has simultaneously exposed the worst while bringing out the best in our communities. Whether it be the incredible leadership that superintendents and school leaders have brought to the table each day during the past year, the wonderfully generous support coming from partnerships—both old and new, or the willingness of people to step up and offer assistance, there are stories to tell that highlight the very best in communities across the entire state.

The Honorary Awards Committee has worked with the WASA staff to make the nomination process smooth, easy, and efficient. In addition to last week's notice from WASA to all members, your region's [committee representative](#) is working to promote this opportunity to recognize those who have been there for you, your school district, and students during the past year. The stories are nothing short of inspiring, and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to amplify those stories for all to hear.

The opportunity to recognize excellence is a resource that all of us have at our disposal—a chance to model, inspire, and highlight the truly extraordinary work happening in our schools and communities. These days, now more than ever, we need to seize opportunities to highlight good people doing good work to advance the common good. Bringing attention to these remarkable people is good for them, good for schools, and good for you. Yes, good for you. Expressing gratitude is good for the soul and helps strengthen one's sense of hope and inspiration.

Thank you for the hopeful vision and positive energy you bring to work each day. Know that you ARE making a difference at a time when people need you most.

Respectfully,

RECOGNIZING STUDENT LEADERSHIP

The WASA Honorary Awards Committee has created a new award this year, which recognizes outstanding students who are working to promote access, equity, or social justice in their schools. We hope that every school district will take advantage of this opportunity to recognize these amazing students and their work to make schools and communities a better place for all. For information on WASA's Student Leadership Award, [click here](#).

2021–22 WASA PRESIDENT-ELECT CANDIDATES

Henry Strom (Grandview) and Michelle Whitney (Pasco) have been nominated for WASA President-elect. Congratulations to both Henry and Michelle, and our thanks for their willingness to serve! Watch for further information on candidates in the upcoming issues of the *WASA News* and *Hotline*.

WASA ASPIRING SUPERINTENDENTS ACADEMY

The registration process for the 2021–22 Aspiring Superintendents Academy Cohort is now open! Click [here](#) to find information about the program and the registration process. If you have specific questions, please contact [Mike Nelson](#) at 253.508.0192.

NEW WASA DIAMOND LEVEL SPONSOR

We are excited to announce that Pearson has now become a WASA Diamond Level Sponsor! Pearson Online & Blended Learning helps school leaders provide K–12 full-time and part-time online academic solutions for learners by offering a range of programs that can be customized to fit the needs of your student community. By combining a proven curriculum, a comprehensive education management system, and certified teachers skilled in online instruction within a vibrant online classroom, Pearson helps educators find the online academic solutions they are looking for. Please visit [Pearson](#) to learn more.



QUICK LINKS

- [Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship](#)
- [WASA Region Honorary Award Nomination Form](#)
- [WASA State Honorary Award Nomination Form](#)
- [PEMCO Robert J. Handy Awards](#)—Deadline March 11
- From WSSDA: [OMPA FAQ](#)

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- **Racial Justice:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - [Student Equity Guide](#) (AWSL)
 - [Key Findings: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (Hanover Research)
 - [Anti-Racism Discussion Guide](#) (Hanover Research)
- **Pandemic:** For information and resources, click the [link](#) on the WASA website. The following resources were recently uploaded:
 - Info-Brief: [Staff Well-Being Check-Ins During COVID-19](#) (Hanover Research)
 - Research Brief: [Best Practices for Trauma-Informed Instruction](#) (Hanover Research)
- **Other:**
 - [The Science of Reasoning With Unreasonable People](#) (New York Times)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The 2021 Legislative Session has reached its mid-point. Even with the scheduled April 25 end date starting to come into focus, much work remains to be done. In addition to the hundreds of bills still to be moved from one house to the other, as they continue through the legislative journey, budget talks are right around the corner. The next quarterly Revenue Forecast, which legislators will use to build their budgets, will be released on March 17. This will trigger the release of legislative budget proposals—both the 2021 Supplemental Operating Budget and the new two-year 2021–23 Operating Budget. It is the Senate’s turn to begin the budget process and, if tradition holds, they will release initial proposals the week after the Revenue update.

With the imminent unveiling of budget proposals, you can be sure that budget-writers have been hard at work crafting the two Operating Budgets (as well as Supplemental and two-year Capital and Transportation Budgets). It is incumbent on school administrators to remind legislators of your funding needs before the budgets are complete because, while it will not be impossible, it will likely be difficult to get budget-writers to make wholesale changes to their initial proposals. WASA’s main focus on budget issues continues to center on enrollment stabilization funding and pupil transportation funding to shore up school district budgets, as well as advocating for state funding to fill the gaps created by the distribution formula (Title I) used to release federal ESSER II funds.

Stay up-to-date on legislative activities with WASA’s legislative newsletter ([TWIO](#)) and [podcast](#)—and continue to stay engaged with your legislators. Your involvement, with your “stories,” is critical for our success.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Elections for WASA Board of Directors positions begin March 3 through March 10. Click the candidate’s bios for more information.

- Superintendents Component Chair-elect—[James Everett](#), Meridian
- Instructional Program Administrators Component (IPAC) Chair-elect—[Jenny Rodriguez](#), Pasco
- Business and Personnel Administrators Component (BPAC) Chair-elect—[Melissa Beard](#), Steilacoom
- Special Education Component Chair—[John Sander](#), Franklin Pierce.

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT!

This month’s WASA Diamond-level Sponsor Spotlight features—



We are grateful for their unwavering support of our members and programs! Learn more about [McKinstry](#).

CONTACT: [Melissa Pendleton](#)