



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Joel Aune, Executive Director
Washington Association of School Administrators
360.943.5717
jaune@wasa-oly.org
www.wasa-oly.org

WASA Recognizes Outstanding Contributions to Education for 2019–20

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

OLYMPIA—The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) recently announced the recipients of the 2019–20 state-level awards during a virtual Association Awards event held earlier this week.

“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.

Those receiving special honors for 2019–20 included:

WASA State Level Awards

- WASA Leadership Award: **Kimberly Fry, Superintendent, Rochester School District**
- Service to WASA Award: **Melissa Gombosky, AESD Consultant**
- D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award: **Dr. Gene Sementi, retired Superintendent, West Valley School District**
- Golden Gavel Award: **Elissa Dyson, School Board Chair, Onion Creek School District**

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 1,876 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.