

Bio: Tim Garchow

Tim Garchow became WSSDA's executive director in August 2016. He is the eighth person to head the organization during its 60-year history as a state agency.

Before coming to WSSDA, Tim was superintendent of the Rainier School District for six years. He also served as superintendent (2006-2010) and principal (2004-2006) of the Southside School District (Mason County). He began his career teaching special education, sixth grade and science in the Peninsula and Sumner school districts.

Student achievement for all students improved significantly during Tim's tenure at Rainier. His focus was on recruiting, mentoring and keeping great teachers, as well as developing strong relations with his school board. The focus in Rainier was on implementing a school house model with expenditures tied to the overall mission and vision. The district also concentrated hard on internal controls and financial responsibility. Tim made it a personal priority to strengthen ties with local legislators and other leaders.

Tim is active in many educational and business organizations, and is a current or past board officer for the WA State School Safety Advisory Committee, ESD 113 Executive Advisory Committee, New Market Skills Center Executive Committee, among others.

He holds a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a M.E. from City University of Seattle. He also received his superintendent certification from Washington State University.

Tim is an avid sailor who races in waters as diverse as the Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean of northern California. He and his wife, Nounouche, live in Tacoma.