



# News Release

*Washington State School Directors' Association*  
*November 18, 2013*

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**For Immediate Release.**

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## **Fifteen boards honored as Boards of Distinction**

Fifteen school boards in Washington were named this week as *Boards of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors' Association.

These boards govern school districts in Anacortes, Auburn, Ferndale, Franklin Pierce, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Port Angeles, Pullman, South Kitsap, Sunnyside, Tumwater, University Place and Vancouver.

“Each of these boards has excelled in school governance,” said Debbie Long, President of the association. “The boards had to rigorously document how their work was making a real difference for students. They are exceptional models of effective school boards.”

The annual Boards of Distinction program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards, developed and adopted by WSSDA in 2009, promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement.

Award applicants submit an essay and supporting evidence to demonstrate how they are putting the standards into practice. This year, applicants addressed the following:

- Adopting policies based on well-researched practices that emphasize a belief that all students can achieve at high levels.
- Ensuring non-negotiable goals for student achievement are established and aligned to the district's plan.
- Ensuring management of the organization, operations, and resources for an efficient and effective learning environment.
- Committing to continuous improvement in student achievement at each school and throughout the district.
- Soliciting input from staff and a wide spectrum of the community so that a diverse range of interests and perspectives on issues is considered.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

The boards will be honored this week during the 2013 WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue. At that time, the association will also announce its 2013 Boards of the Year

winners. One board will be selected from each of two categories based on district enrollment. Several of these boards will also receive Special Merit awards for earning Board of Distinction recognition for five consecutive years. School directors for each honored board are:

**Anacortes:** Jeannette Papadakis, Lynne Lang, Bobbilyn Hogge, Robert Maxson and Karl Yost

**Auburn:** Janice Nelson, Ray Vefik, Anne Baunach, Lisa Connors and Carol Seng

**Ferndale:** Lee Anne Riddle, Kevin Erickson, Hugh Foulke, Stuart McKay and Andrew McLaurin

**Franklin Pierce:** Cole Roberts, John Harstad, Mark Baumgarten, Doug Carlson and Mary Sherman

**Issaquah:** Brian Deagle, Marnie Maraldo, Alison Meryweather, Anne Moore and Suzanne Weaver

**Kent:** Debbie Straus, Karen DeBruler, Agda Burchard, Tim Clark and Russ Hanscom

**Lake Stevens:** John Boerger, Kevin Plemel, David Iseminger, Paul Lund and Mari Taylor

**Monroe:** Tom MacIntyre, Jim Scott, Greg Accetturo, Nancy Truitt Pierce and Katy Woods

**Port Angeles:** Lonnie Linn, Steve Baxter, Patti Happe, Cindy Kelly and Sarah Methner

**Pullman:** Susan Weed, Jim Evermann, Karl Johanson, Dean Kinzer and Allison Munch-Rotolo

**South Kitsap:** Keith Garton, Chris Lemke, Patty Henderson, Kathryn Simpson and Greg Wall

**Sunnyside:** Rocky Simmons, Michelle Perry, Dylan Gardner, Lorenzo Garza Jr. and Sandra Linde

**Tumwater:** Jay Wood, Bob Barclift, Rita Luce, Kim Reykdal and Janine Ward

**University Place:** Christine Kilduff, Rick Maloney, Mary Lu Dickinson, Michael Ehart and Annie Fitzsimmons

**Vancouver:** Dale Rice, Edri Geiger, Kathy Gillespie, Mari Greves, Mark Stoker

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**About WSSDA** — Founded in 1922, the Washington State School Directors' Association is comprised of all 1,477 school board members from Washington's 295 school districts. The districts they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of nearly \$10 billion, and employ more than 160,000 people. WSSDA's core mission is focused on ensuring that school board members have the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and improve student learning.