



# News Release

*Washington State School Directors' Association*  
*November 24, 2014*

---

**For Immediate Release.**

**Contact: Michael Wilson, 360.252.3013 or [m.wilson@wssda.org](mailto:m.wilson@wssda.org)**

## **Sunnyside honored for repeat distinction**

### **Union Gap, University Place and Everett named as School Boards of the Year**

The Union Gap, University Place and Everett School Boards have been named the 2014 school *Boards of the Year*.

The awards were presented Thursday during the Annual Conference of the Washington State School Directors' Association. The three boards were chosen from a field of 23 boards nominated from across Washington state.

“Each of our boards of the year has shown how a commitment to quality education for all kids can translate into real progress,” said Mari Taylor, outgoing WSSDA President. “These boards model true leadership in their passion and their actions.”

Sunnyside, a 2013 Board of the Year was also honored for five straight years of recognition as a board of distinction.

In addition to the above four boards, 13 other school boards were earlier named Boards of Distinction. They come from districts in Bellingham, Clover Park, Ferndale, Issaquah, Kent, Lake Stevens, Pasco, Pullman, Puyallup, Riverview, Tacoma, Tumwater and West Valley (Spokane).

The annual Boards of Distinction and Boards of the Year 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:

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

- Promoting healthy relationships by inspiring and empowering others.
- Setting and communicating high expectations for student learning, with clear goals and plans.

- Creating conditions for student and staff success.
- Holding school the district accountable for meeting student learning expectations.
- Engaging the local community and representing the values and expectations it holds for schools.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

School directors for each of the most recently honored boards are:

**Everett:** Pam LeSesne, Carol Andrews, Caroline Mason, Traci Mitchell and Ted Wenta

**Sunnyside:** Rocky Simmons, Dylan Gardner, Sandra Linde, Michelle Perry and Stephen R. Winfree

**Union Gap:** Carrie Greenough, Louise Sisk, Dianna Grunlose, Ronald Jennings and Margarita Soto

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

###

**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.