

News release



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Everett's school board is 2014 *Board of the Year*

State's highest honor comes after earlier designation as a 2014 [Board of Distinction](#)

Earlier this month, the Everett Public Schools Board of Directors was named one of only 17 *Boards of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA). When accepting that honor, President Pam LeSesne credited a long line of past school board members for having made the recent honor possible. She spoke of the current board's responsibility to the public and to the direction set forth by past community-minded visionary board members.

This week LeSesne learned the board had earned a second, and the highest WSSDA honor. She once again gave credit to those who came before.

Boards of the Year are those whose nomination for *Board of Distinction* is the highest-scoring in each of three categories. Everett Public Schools, in the category of 9,000 or more students shares the 2014 *Board of the Year* honor with [Union Gap School District's](#) board (in the 1-1,000 student size category) and with the board of [University Place School District](#) (in the 1,001-9,000 student size category).

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President LeSesne's comments

A student's test scores speak not just to one year's worth of learning.

A single test score, like a single award, speaks to learning and work completed over time.

Like student test scores, this honor is a "snapshot in time" that reflects decades of public-minded governance.

Our school district's laser-focus on what it takes to improve student learning has been at the heart of school boards in our district for decades.

We are a relatively new collection of individual board members.

As such, we feel a strong responsibility to the boards before us and to our public to work collaboratively.

We work together to invest our time and public resources in our communities' children.

Our district's core values are:

- Learning
- Passion
- Respect
- Equity
- Diversity
- Integrity
- ... and ...
- Collaboration

Thank you for enabling us to share this honor with the visionary and collaborative school board members who came before us and who so deservedly have earned it.

Each year WSSDA invites school boards to submit applications documenting research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement. This year's categories addressed:

- 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 schools and the district accountable for student learning expectations
- Engaging the local community and representing the values and expectations it holds for schools.

The board's nomination, which earned the highest scores of the state's largest districts, is published [online](#).



From left: Traci Mitchell, Carol Andrews, Gary Cohn, Pam LeSesne, Caroline Mason, Ted Wenta

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