



Our students will shape and lead the future

News release

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Laurie Cappello of Cascade High School is 2016 Hall of Fame member

Washington Music Educators Association selects only 10 members each year



Cascade High School's long-time choral teacher, Laurie Cappello and nine other Washington music teachers will join the Washington Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in February. The honor was established in 1998 as a way to recognize music teachers who show exceptional support, inspiration and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of music education in Washington state.

"All who have had the benefit of working with Laurie, learning from her, or seeing her students perform agree she richly deserves this recognition," said Cascade High School Principal Cathy Woods. "She has more than tripled the number of students involved in choral programs here, and her groups are highly sought after performers for local and regional events. Her men's group alone has 65 male voices."

Cappello's students have earned countless regional, state and national awards, and she is a leader in music education. She has held leadership positions in the state and region's music educators' professional group, and was named the 2010 regional Outstanding Music Educator of the Year.

Her impact on students is documented by middle and high school students who have sung their way through classes over more than 30 years – most of them in Everett Public Schools. Many of those students have gone on to become music educators themselves.

Among her peers she is also highly regarded for mentoring and teaching them. Consistently mentioned by those who nominated her is her gracious generosity to share her expertise and experience. As one said, "She has brought in clinicians for our region in all music disciplines and shared her extensive pedagogical knowledge with any and all who are smart enough to seek her out."

Another wrote, Laurie is a strong advocate of vocal music who is not afraid to demand that it receive the same respect, support and equal footing that instrumental music receives."

Still another tells of having gone unwillingly for the first time to the state association meeting in the 1990s. Cappello who was the state president then, so impressed this fledgling teacher that, "... I figured if this young woman could pull this off, I could get over my nervousness ... I'm sure there are many other teachers in our state whom she has similarly inspired.

(more)

The official award ceremony recognizing Laurie and other inductees takes place in Yakima in February 2016 as part of the Washington Music Educators Association annual conference.

The full list of former Hall of Fame honorees appears on the WMEA website at www.wmea.org.

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