



*Our students will shape and lead the future*

## News release

**May 15, 2015**

### **Athletic Director Robert Polk earns state and national awards**

*Polk earns NIAAA Award of Merit and named WSSAAA Athletic Director of the Year*

On April 25, 2015, Robert Polk, Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) and district athletic director, was awarded National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association's ([NIAAA](#)) 2015 *Award of Merit*. The award recognizes Polk for "meritorious dedication to middle and high school athletics."

Polk also earned Washington Secondary School Athletic Administrators Association's ([WSSAAA](#)) 2015 *Athletic Director of the Year*.

Polk's selection for the awards is long overdue, in the minds of those who have worked with him in the district and across the state. "Robert

is a first class professional who possesses the qualities and characteristics of an outstanding athletic director and is an ideal candidate for Washington State Athletic Director of the Year," wrote Dr. Joyce Stewart, associate superintendent of teaching and learning, in her letter of recommendation to WSSAAA.



*As the district liaison and coordinator of student school board representatives, Polk helps students become familiar with school board responsibilities. Above he is introducing the Sequoia High School student representative Joseph Jackson to the board when Jackson was selected to that position.*

**"I am deeply honored and humbled by the recognition ... The opportunity to earn this recognition is due to the support of the district to allow me to participate in various state and national initiatives. But I owe this honor more to the outstanding teacher-coaches and staff that serve as leaders and provide students with outstanding experiences."**

(more)

Polk has been an athletic director since 2000 – first at Olympic High School in the Central Kitsap School District for four years and then at Everett Public Schools. This is his 11th year in Everett. Polk is an NIAAA Leadership Training State Coordinator, NIAAA National Instructor, and has been a presenter for numerous WSSAAA state conferences.

He coordinates the district health education curriculum, physical education curriculum and training for teachers and coaches. He has managed a \$750,000 Physical Education grant and has served on the district Fiscal Advisory Council, Wellness Committee, Safety Committee and Capital Facilities Advisory Council. He also manages the Northwest District One Tournaments for baseball, basketball, wrestling, and track and field.

Unrelated to his athletic responsibilities, Polk also coordinates the student school board member representatives. In that role, he oversees recruiting student candidates for those board-selected positions, prepping the students for interviews and briefing them on the legal practices, processes and obligations of the district's elected governing body. Superintendent Cohn explained, "I selected Robert for that role working with student leaders because of Robert's own leadership capabilities, his relationship with students of all ages and his unquestionable ethics in a position that helps shape future leaders."

Associate Superintendent Tony Byrd adds, "Robert steadfastly dedicates his time to serving students and staff. He is a humble, quiet leader for equity of program offerings, gender equality in athletics, and much more. He trains staff, he listens to the community, and he artfully balances the demands of his work with his highest priority – being a wonderful father and husband."

Kelly Shepherd, principal of Sequoia High School, "... appreciates Robert's unwavering advocacy to ensure all students have access to athletics and activities. Robert is a champion to help ensure Sequoia students have access to athletics at their comprehensive school. He helps student navigate completing paperwork and the WIAA waiver process when necessary. He is supportive of student athletes."

During the May 12 meeting when his achievements and awards were recognized by the school board Polk said, "I am deeply honored and humbled by the recognition ... The opportunity to earn this recognition is due to the support of the district to allow me to participate in various state and national initiatives. But I owe this honor more to the outstanding teacher-coaches and staff that serve as leaders and provide students with outstanding experiences."

Polk earned his bachelor's degree from University of Puget Sound and his master's from Central Missouri State University.



*Polk, pictured left, holds award and stands with fellow WESCO athletic directors this spring.*

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**For more information:**

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