

## Congratulations!

### Andrea O'Donnell American Legion Educator of the Year

Andrea O'Donnell is the American Legion's Educator of the Year for the state of Washington, 2016. Andrea was presented the award at an October 28 school assembly at Columbia Elementary School, where she is an instructional coach.



Andrea O'Donnell

"I am deeply honored to receive this award as the American Legion is known for their support and advocacy in education," says Andrea. "I have a deep appreciation for the American Legion—Veterans and Military should always be

remembered for the many sacrifices they have given to provide for our freedom."

Andrea received a Certificate from the American Legion Department of Washington and \$500. She also received 250.00 from American Legion Post 10, Wenatchee, for her regional award in May 2016.

### Jodi Smith Payne GLAD™ Administrator of the Year

Jodi Smith-Payne was named Administrator of the Year for 2016 at the OCDE (Orange County Department of Education) Project GLAD® 24rd Annual Conference in Irvine, California. The award recognizes Outstanding Leadership for one GLAD® administrator in the nation. Jodi is Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching in Wenatchee School District.



Jodi Smith Payne

Jodi was nominated by Cynthia Valdez, Assistant Director of Special Services, who was named Trainer of the Year for GLAD® by the OCDE one year ago. The nomination spoke to Jodi's advocacy for GLAD®, including increasing awareness among teachers and administrators. "... letting them know GLAD® was not a drive-by training or fleeting moment, but rather a cornerstone for exemplary professional development," wrote Cynthia in the nomination. "Jodi's award is also a tribute to the hard work the teachers are doing with GLAD," Cynthia said.

Project GLAD® is a model of professional development dedicated to building academic language and literacy for all students, especially English language learners.

Jodi is administrator for a team of Project GLAD® trainers in the Wenatchee School District. Cynthia Valdez is the lead with trainers Kathryn Anderson, and Terri Goveia. They became certified as K-12 trainers in December 2014, and were honored together for their accomplishments at the national OCDE conference in 2014.

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## Amy Kerker Named one of “30 Under 35”

Amy Kerker, music teacher at Washington Elementary School, was named to the “30 Under 35” group. The 30 Under 35 recognizes the best and brightest up-and-coming professionals in the community. She was featured in the Wenatchee World on October 14th.



Amy Kerker

“I think, as educators, we tend to be very critical of ourselves, and we focus too much on our mistakes or things we could improve,” Amy said. “It is very encouraging to be

reminded of the things I’m doing right!”

## Valley Academy Named School of Distinction

Valley Academy of Learning has been named a 2016 School of Distinction. The award is the only one in the state entirely focused on combined improvement in English/Language Arts and math, sustained over a five-year period.

“Our school community can take great pride in this recognition,” said Greg Lovercamp, Program Administrator of Valley Academy. “We attribute this success to the hard work of students, parents and staff. Our middle school teachers are very aware of the standards and their students’ strengths and areas of needed focus. This knowledge guides instruction as we strive to improve the success of each student.”



Greg Lovercamp

The 2016 School of Distinction award winners include 51 elementary schools, 20 middle/junior high schools and 23 high schools.

Now in its 10th year, the School of Distinction awards were created in the summer of 2007 to recognize the highest improving schools in Washington State. The awards recognize and celebrate school staff, students, and leaders who improve performance for all students over a sustained period of time in English language arts and mathematics.

## Dave Riggs Wins Journalism National Recognition

Dave Riggs, Wenatchee High School journalism advisor, was named Distinguished Advisor at the National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year program held in Princeton, New Jersey September 20, 2016.

“[It’s] quite an honor. I am humbled,” Riggs says of his award. “I love working with students who have such an incredible passion for journalism,” says Riggs. “I consider myself the luckiest teacher in the world.”



Dave Riggs

## Taunya Brown & Diana Haglund: Women of the Year Nominees

Congratulations to Taunya Brown, Orchard Middle School Principal, and Diana Haglund, Wenatchee Learns, Women of the Year nominees!

“I’m totally in shock,” Taunya Brown. “I love my job, and I’m trying to do the best job I can do.”



Taunya Brown

“It’s a honor to be nominated along side so many outstanding women in our community,” says Diana Haglund. “I’m just trying to doing the right things for our kids and community and

have some fun along the way.”

Woman of the Year is presented by the association of Wenatchee Business & Professional Women.



Diana Haglund

# Welcome

## New Director of Food Services

Chris Lutgen is the Director of Food Services. He replaces Kent Getzin, who resigned to begin a travel cooking business.



Chris Lutgen

Chris has been a General Manager with Sodexo Foods for the last twelve years where he directed the Food Service Programs for the Mukilteo School District, Lake Washington School District and most recently the Marysville School District. Prior to that he was the

Director of Child Nutrition for the Yucaipa-Calimesa Unified School District.

Chris earned his Bachelors of Science in Food Science and Human Nutrition from Washington State University. He is relocating to the Wenatchee area from Marysville with his wife and six children.

## New Director of Transportation

Robert Sanford is the new Director of Transportation position for the Wenatchee School District. Robert (Bob) will replace Marcia Hahn who retired at the end of July.



Robert Sanford

Bob comes to us with fourteen years experience at Oak Harbor Freight Lines, where he was a Driver, Dispatcher and Supervisor. Bob has a Bachelors Degree and Masters degree in Social Work from Eastern Washington University.

Bob, his wife and their two teenage daughters moved to Wenatchee from the Spokane Valley. Bob began his new position on October 3, 2016.

## Learning and Teaching Professional Development News

**Marcia Tate will be filming WSD teachers** in December as they demonstrate classroom engagement Strategies



Marcia Tate was so impressed with Wenatchee educators at her August workshops here that she has asked to return in December to film teachers demonstrating classroom engagement strategies!

Marcia Tate is an educator and best-selling author who has spent more than 25 years presenting engaging

workshops to educators worldwide.

**Eric Jensen will be coming to Wenatchee** August 21 and 22, 2017 for professional development.

"I'm very excited that we will have the opportunity to bring Eric Jensen to Wenatchee for our teachers," Jodi Smith Payne, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching. "We always consider how to

use professional learning opportunities to increase staff knowledge and skills related to our district initiatives."

Jensen's workshop will be an extension of the work we have done with Marzano, GLAD, PBIS, Marcia Tate and brain research.

He will bring in the element of poverty and student engagement. Eric Jensen is a former teacher with a real love of learning. He grew up in San Diego and attended public schools. While his academic background is in English and human development, he has a real love of educational neuroscience. For over 20 years, he has been connecting the research with practical classroom applications



Jensen has authored over 28 books, most recently "Poor Students, Rich Teaching – Mindsets for Change."



# Wenatchee Learns Connect Designated as Learning Lab

by National Governors Association Policy Academy on Work-Based Learning

The Wenatchee School District's "Wenatchee Learns Connect" business partnership center has been selected by the National Governors Association (NGA) Policy Academy on Work-Based Learning (WBL) as a learning laboratory for best practices.

"This recognition is a real testament to the great work being done by our Wenatchee Connect staff, career & technical education staff, and the business and community partners who have supported our vision and efforts to increase work-based learning and career connections for our students," says Wenatchee Superintendent Brian Flones.

Diana Haglund is the coordinator for Wenatchee Learns Connect. "We started the work of Wenatchee Learns with the help of our community," Diana says. "I'm excited to share our secret sauce for effective work-based learning strategies in Wenatchee with our state and nation, with the hope that other communities can benefit from our experiences."

Haglund works closely with Dennis Conger, Director of Career and Technical Education for the district, in crafting learning opportunities for students. "I am proud live and work in such a great community," says Dennis. "This community works intentionally to create partnerships and opportunities for our youth."

As a Learning Lab, Wenatchee Learns Connect will be provided with \$15,000 in funding to support work-based learning. In turn, they will provide an 'under the hood' look at promising practices, and outcomes, programs, materials, tools and resources that support successful work-based learning programs.

Wenatchee was the first site visit by the governor's Learning Lab Team, who toured and learned about programs on Thursday, October 6. "One thing that really stands out is the level and quality of partnership commitments," said Gilda Wheeler, Learning Lab team member and Senior Program Officer with Washington STEM. "The Wenatchee School District has so effectively built and leveraged partnerships—from the city officials, to higher education, to the business community."

Haglund and Conger will present program information and performance metrics in Olympia at the Governor's Summit on Youth Employment and Work-Based Learning in May 2017.



Learning Lab member Gilda Wheeler introduces herself to community members after visiting Wenatchee High School. Wheeler and fellow committee members Caroline King and Catherine Verrenti visited Wenatchee as part of the National Governors Association committee studying best practices in work-based learning.