



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pasco Superintendent Michelle Whitney Elected WASA President for 2022

Whitney to lead statewide professional association for school administrators

OLYMPIA—The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) is pleased to announce that members have elected Mrs. Michelle Whitney, superintendent of the Pasco School District, as WASA President-elect for 2021-22. Whitney will assume the presidency in July 2022, following the term of the current president, Dr. Aaron Leavell, superintendent, Bremerton School District.

Whitney has been an active member of WASA since 2011 and served in a variety of association positions, including Region 123 Membership and Professional Learning Committee Representative, WASA/OSPI Superintendents Roundtable, Student Learning Advisory Workgroup, superintendent mentor, conference presenter, Region 123 Vice President, and Region 123 President.

"Michelle Whitney is an accomplished and respected leader who epitomizes the three pillars of WASA: Leadership, Trust, and Advocacy. As superintendent of the Pasco School District for the past seven years, her work has been grounded in a commitment to achieving equity for all students, which is also central to WASA's values and mission," said WASA Executive Director Joel Aune. "In addition to her work in the Pasco School District, Michelle has been actively involved in Region 123, as well as various state-level roles and activities, sharing her expertise, offering her perspective, and supporting her colleagues in their individual and collective efforts to build systems that support equity and excellence in student learning."

Aune added, "Michelle is an accomplished leader who approaches the work with both her head and her heart. She expresses a deep commitment to the students in her schools that is clearly evident in her words and actions. While she is realistic about the complex challenges that lie ahead for K-12 education, Michelle leads with a hopeful vision of the future and an unwavering commitment to doing what is best and right for children. She is dedicated to both her own growth as a leader and in supporting the development of others in their capacity to lead. Her vision, character, and passion will no doubt serve the association and our membership well as she assumes the WASA presidency in July 2022."

Upon learning of the election results, Whitney said she is honored to assume the role of WASA President-Elect and to serve the association.

"I look forward to bringing my experiences, connections, heart, and passion for serving you as we unify, recover, and achieve," said Whitney. "You have been the heroes of this moment, and I am proud to be on your team."

As WASA president, Whitney's goals are to:

- **Capitalize** on innovations implemented statewide in response to COVID-19 to leverage sustained change in public education.
- **Protect** investments that are already working and have a direct and immediate impact on student success.
- **Leverage** WASA's leadership to dismantle inequity in education policies, systems, and services to ensure every student has inclusive access to the mental health support, academic support, coursework, and technology they need.
- **Maximize** WASA's position within AASA to connect across the country to identify innovations for systemic improvement.
- **Repair and restore** the spirits of Washington state administrators by finding ways to celebrate the tremendous work of her colleagues across the state.
- **Center** equity in WASA's actions and decision-making by incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice as hard-and-fast principles, not just words.

Whitney received her superintendent credentials from Washington State University. She holds a master's in education from Washington State University and a bachelor's degree in education, Summa Cum Laude, with endorsements in elementary education (K-8) and English as a Second Language — all from Washington State University. She also holds an associate of arts degree with an emphasis in science and business from Columbia Basin College.

Whitney began working in the Pasco School District in 1995, where she has served as a substitute teacher; teacher; librarian/technology facilitator; counselor; assistant principal; principal; director of human resources; and executive director of teaching and learning. She has been the superintendent of the Pasco School District since 2014.

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

The Washington Association of School Administrators (<http://www.wasa-oly.org>) is committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful and valuable training, support, and resources to education leaders, and to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. With more than 1,600 members, membership is open to all

education administrators in a central office, building management, and educational agency positions. A not-for-profit organization, WASA is funded by membership dues and association events.

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