



Strong leaders, strong schools, strong students.

1021 8th Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 | www.awsp.org
360.357.7951 | 800.562.6100 | fax: 360.357.7966
facebook.com/awsp.principals | [@awsp_principals](https://twitter.com/awsp_principals)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2018

CONTACT

Ron Sisson, Associate Director, Elementary Programs
360.357.7951 | 800.562.6100 | ron@awsp.org

Gina Naccarato-Keele, Principal at Linwood Elementary in Spokane, Named 2018 Elementary Principal of the Year

Linwood Elementary School provides a shared vision for moving the school forward

OLYMPIA — Linwood Elementary Principal Gina Naccarato-Keele was named this year’s Washington State Elementary Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington, a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). She was one of 27 nominees from across the state.

Naccarato-Keele leads the only dual language school in the Spokane School District. Many of Linwood’s parents have limited English proficiency, so Naccarato-Keele has made parent outreach an integral part of her work. She hosts monthly Tea and Talk events to inform parents of initiatives and address concerns. Naccarato-Keele focuses on creating fun, hands on activities that can be replicated at home through other events like Reading and Math Nights and Community Hope Gardens. She has created a warm and welcoming environment for students and parents alike.



“High expectations and standards for all is the rule for all students at Linwood, but at the same time Gina is empathetic and passionate to ensure that all students succeed in all respects, not only academically,” noted Spokane School District Superintendent Alex P. Apostle, Ph.D, who went on to add, “She is also a visionary and embraces the philosophy of challenging the “status quo” in her effort to provide the very best and challenging opportunities for both staff and students.”

Naccarato-Keele started as principal at Linwood Elementary in 2013. She was the assistant principal at Mountain View Elementary School in North Thurston Public Schools from 2011-2013. She also worked as an administrative assistant and taught third and seventh grades in the district. A University of California Riverside graduate, she earned her Master of Education from the University of Washington in 1996 and her principal certificate from Seattle Pacific University in 2009.

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program

Naccarato-Keele will be honored this fall in Washington D.C. as part of the [National Distinguished Principal of the Year program](#), which is sponsored by the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#) in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and VALIC. All state winners participate in a series of events and activities over the course of two days, culminating in a formal awards banquet. There is no national winner at the elementary level.

STATE COMPONENTS

Elementary School Principals of Washington (ESPAW)
Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP)
Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP)

NATIONAL COMPONENTS

National Association of Elementary School Principals (ESPAW)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)