

Expand Your Leadership Network by Serving with AWSP

Cameron Grow

2019-20 AWSP Board President,
Principal, Lincoln Middle School,
Pullman SD

As we move into

the second half of the school year, this is the time when we reach out to collaborative partners to solve challenges happening within the building.

During my time with AWSP, my collaborative team became much larger than I ever could have imagined. We have many principals in the state who may not have a large collaborative team for a variety of reasons, ranging from district size to time constraints. Being a part of the structure at AWSP has allowed me to expand my team.

IT STARTED WITH A PHONE CALL

My AWSP journey began during my second year as principal here at Lincoln Middle School here in Pullman. Former AWSP Middle Level Director Don Rash gave me a call and asked if I would like to take part in a couple of committees that needed eastside members. A month later, I went to my first AWSP middle level meeting in Seattle. I didn't know what to expect, and to be honest, I was a little nervous.

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At the time, I can still remember president-elect Randy Heath made me feel at home immediately. He gave me opportunities to learn and to provide input to the larger team. Randy told me this would become a go-to team for me when trying to solve problems within my own building. He was 100 percent correct. I now had a team of principals from around the state with

amazing knowledge and experience I could pull from.

STATEWIDE INSPIRATION

Over the years, I focused on a couple of different roles within the team. My last role landed me on the AWSP board. During this time, I have been able to establish some amazing

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relationships with principals from across the state. They are leaders who are here for kids, their staff, and their communities. They inspire me and continue to help me believe in myself and what I can do with my kids, my staff, and my community. These principals have played a role on the board over the course of the past 10 years. From Nathan Plummer in Sultan, to Ken Schutz in Spokane, Heidi Sutton in Yakima, Kelly Boyd in Coulee City, Michael Harrington in Finley, Erika Burden in Cheney, and finally Aaron Fletcher in Spangle — these are now some of my best friends on the planet. It was all because of my time serving on the board with each of these amazing leaders.

As the president this year, I have the opportunity to reflect on how much of a privilege it is to serve principals from around the state. The focus of this column is to show that you can begin extending your leadership network to others from around the

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state by being a part of AWSP boards, grade level committees, and advisory councils. If you get the chance to serve, please take this opportunity to build a much larger collaborative team for yourself. You may find an amazing new group of friends who will inspire you to become the best principal you can be.

AWSP – Strong Principals. Strong Schools. Strong Students. ■



Cameron Grow is the 2019-20 AWSP Board President. He has been principal at Lincoln Middle School in Pullman School District since 2007.

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