

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kate Frazier Williams of Tacoma Public Schools Named 2016 Elementary Principal of the Year *Lister Elementary Principal growing achievement and relationships*

OLYMPIA — Lister Elementary Principal Kate Frazier 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 33 nominees from across the state.

Frazier is in her sixth year as principal at Lister. During her time at the school, she's transformed the school to a data-driven, family-focused school with constant student growth and a narrowing opportunity gap. Through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), suspension rates are way down and attendance is way up. The school has seen significant and impressive results with students who were struggling previously.

Lister's impressive results are due to the child-centered and community approach Frazier has taken. She is described as the heart and soul of the school and community. Frazier is in classrooms everyday and connects with students at school and out in the community. Her outreach has kept parents involved and created a sense of pride and belonging for students, parents, and staff. The staff at Lister are encouraged to take teacher leadership roles and encouraged to grow as teachers and leaders.

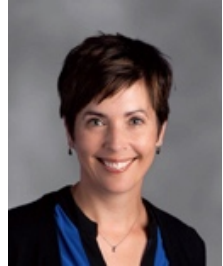
"She points me in the right direction, she follows up, and it's an honor to work with her. She's outstanding as a principal," said Lister's school counselor Lauren Macdonald. "She has so much respect around the community and with our staff and students."

Lister community members could not say enough about how impactful Frazier has been in taking the Lister community to an entirely new level, one that is centered on student success and an academic path that will lead all students to have choices after the 12th grade.

Often described as humble, Frazier's reaction to her selection as Elementary Principal of the Year was typically modest. "I'm just so blown away by it, to be honest, and just humbled," said Frazier. "When I look at my colleagues and my peers and what they're doing in their buildings, I'm in awe by them. To be able to have that nomination with Tacoma and to have it have at the state level is unbelievable."

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program

Frazier 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.



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