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Rep. Marcie Maxwell Earns 2013 Torch of Leadership Award

Renton Democrat Was Instrumental in Education Gains This Legislative Session

Rep. Marcie Maxwell is the winner of AWSP's 2013 Torch of Leadership Award. Maxwell, a Democrat representing the 41st district, was chosen for her commitment to K-12 education during the 2013 legislative session.

"Maxwell takes the Washington State Constitution seriously when it says education is the 'paramount duty' of the state," said AWSP Government Relations Director Jerry Bender. "She is interested in all students being able to develop their own talents and abilities as evidenced by the bills she introduced this past session."

Of the seven bills Maxwell introduced this year, six dealt with education (music education, STEM, at-risk youth, compulsory attendance, Learning Assistant Program, gifted education, school funding, teacher preparation, and professional development).

Maxwell has made STEM an education focus. She believes STEM education encourages a diverse, skilled employment base that will attract and keep good jobs and successful businesses in Washington. She has attended AWSP's STEM training for principals, and has written letters of support on AWSP's behalf to continue funding the STEM training for principals. She believes STEM instruction must be implemented at the building level to be successful and that process starts with the principal.

Maxwell serves as the Deputy Majority Leader for Education & Opportunity in the House of Representatives. She also serves on the House Appropriations Committee, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, the House Education Committee, the House Rules Committee and the House Technology & Economic Development. In addition, she serves on the bipartisan Quality Education Council.

Education has been a long-time interest of Maxwell's as reflected by her eight years of service on the Renton School Board and her involvement in the Renton PTA as a Council President. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Jobs for Washington Graduates. In addition to her elected duties, Maxwell is a Realtor and small business owner. She studied business and real estate at Highline Community College. She lives in Renton and has two grown children.

Vicki Puckett, principal at Mercer Island High School, said, "In meeting with Marcie, it is obvious she is passionate about education and she is a strong advocate of programs that support at-risk students."

AWSP officially will honor Maxwell in October 2013 at its Fall Legislation Committee meeting. AWSP founded the Torch of Leadership Award in 2009.

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