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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Mt. Spokane High School's Chelsea Gallagher Named Washington State Principal of the Year

**Mead, WA** – The Association of Washington School Principals is proud to announce that Principal Chelsea Gallagher has been awarded the prestigious **Washington State Secondary Principal of the Year** title for 2025. Gallagher's leadership has been instrumental in fostering an inclusive, supportive, and high-achieving school environment, making Mt. Spokane a beacon of excellence for students, staff, and the community.

Gallagher's dedication to servant leadership has left an indelible impact on the school. Known for her open-door policy and unwavering commitment to student success, she is described as a leader who "elevates and celebrates others, champions the underdog, pushes excellence, and brings out the best in everyone around her." Her presence is felt everywhere—from academic discussions to assisting custodial staff—exemplifying her belief that no job is too small when it comes to serving the school community.

Chelsea's leadership has profoundly shaped Mt. Spokane High School, not only as an educator but also as a mentor and advocate for students. As one staff member and parent noted, "She knows most students by name, invests in their activities, and makes the school an incredible place each day." Her passion for fostering a positive school culture is evident in her support of student events, spirit days, and extracurricular programs.

One of the hallmarks of Gallagher's leadership is her ability to inspire and empower both students and staff. From creating a student advisory group to enhancing equity through strategic scheduling changes, she continuously seeks ways to ensure every individual at Mt. Spokane feels seen, heard, and valued. Under her leadership, the school's graduation rate has increased, student achievement scores have improved, and student engagement has flourished.

Gallagher's personal journey to education shaped her deep-rooted commitment to student advocacy. Raised by a single parent with limited resources, she learned the power of mentorship when her high school basketball coach, Coach D, encouraged her to find new paths to success. Today, she channels that same belief into her leadership, working tirelessly to create opportunities for all students—especially those who may not yet see their own potential.

Her efforts to build a culture of trust and belonging have resonated deeply within the community. As one teacher noted, "She signs every email 'In Service'—and that's exactly how she leads: with an unwavering dedication to the students, staff, and families of Mt. Spokane."

Through her passion, resilience, and commitment to continuous improvement, Principal Chelsea Gallagher has redefined what it means to lead a school. AWSP and Mt. Spokane High School are honored to celebrate her achievements and proud to have such a dedicated and visionary leader at its helm.