

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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John Gummel Named Washington State 2018 High School Principal of the Year

Kelso High School principal takes on big challenges

OLYMPIA—Kelso High School Principal **John Gummel** was named the 2018 Washington State High School Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP), a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). Gummel was presented the award in a surprise ceremony under the veil of a district training. AWSP's Executive Director and its Director of High School Programs, Gary Kipp and Scott Seaman, presented the award in the school's auditorium with an audience of staff and students.



"It's not too easy to catch me off guard," remarked Gummel, who added, "I'm surrounded by great staff who do amazing work. I'm also surrounded by some great students and the community here. You guys know I love this place. I live here, I breath Kelso red, white, and blue."

Under Gummel's leadership, Kelso set a state record by winning six consecutive School of Achievement awards, dating back to 2011. Kelso's graduation rate has climbed to 94 percent, highest of any of the comprehensive Tacoma high schools. Gummel's dedication, focus on student success, and his support of all students and staff were prominent themes in his nomination.

"John really leads by example. He's the first one here in the morning and he's often the last one to go," said Bernadette Ray, Kelso's Assistant Principal. "He's the Ram Man. He's 100 percent Kelso Rams, everyday."

Gummel took the reins as Kelso's principal in 2005 after serving as the school's assistant principal since 2000. Prior to that, Gummel worked at the American International School of Lagos, Nigeria as part of a partnership fostered by the U.S. State Department in the 1960s.

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program

Gummel will travel to Washington, D. C. later this year to be recognized for his accomplishment. The program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, annually recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals. For more information, visit www.nassp.org.

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)