



ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

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Sen. Bruce Dammeier Wins 2015 Torch of Leadership Award

Pierce County Republican Instrumental in Education Gains During the 2015 Session

Sen. Bruce Dammeier is the winner of AWSP's 2015 Torch of Leadership Award. Dammeier, a Republican representing the 25th Legislative District, was chosen for his commitment to K-12 education during the 2015 legislative session.

"As evidenced by the bills Senator Dammeier sponsored, he clearly cares about all kids and the schools who serve them," notes AWSP Government Relations Director Jerry Bender.

Dammeier was the prime sponsor on several education-related bills in 2015, including Senate Bill 5803, which streamlines the notification process for parents of students scoring below basic on the third grade English language arts assessment; and Senate Bill 6080, which funds building additional classrooms for all-day kindergarten, as well as space for first through third grade class size reductions. He introduced a key levy reform measure, SB 6130, with bipartisan support, and was a key player in Senate negotiations on the subject. Dammeier also introduced bills dealing with dual-credit options, school safety, identifiable student information guidelines, and the learning assistance program (LAP).

Dammeier is vice-chair of the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee, and is vice-chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee overseeing issues of education finance. He also is vice-chair of the Health Care Committee and a member of the Rules Committee. Prior to serving in the Senate, Dammeier was a member of the House of Representatives from 2009 to 2011. He served eight years as a member of the Puyallup School Board. Dammeier majored in Economics at the U.S. Naval Academy and has a master's degree in engineering from the University of Washington. He lives in Puyallup with his wife Lauren. They are the parents of three sons.

Upon hearing of his selection for the Torch of Leadership award, Dammeier said, "I am honored and humbled to receive a leadership award from an organization of leaders. Principals have a profound impact on Washington's 1 million public-school students. The students they educate today are our teachers, business owners, and community leaders of tomorrow."

AWSP President Jennifer Kindle stated, "While principal at Franklin Pierce High School, I worked with Senator Dammeier often on legislative issues and found him approachable and willing to listen to professional educators. I'm delighted that he is being recognized as a leader in the Legislature by leaders in the school buildings. He made a real difference for the one million plus students in schools in Washington.

AWSP will officially honor Dammeier in October 2015 at its Legislation Committee meeting. AWSP founded the Torch of Leadership Award in 2009.



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