

WashingtonPrincipal

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 Association of Washington Middle Level Principals
 Washington Association of Secondary School Principals

National Affiliates

National Association of Elementary School Principals
 National Association of Secondary School Principals

Leaders Build Legacies

How Will You Build Yours?

David Morrill

Communications Director, AWSP

Nobody likes a bragger, and there's only one socially acceptable topic to brag about, unless you're a rapper, then it's all fair game. What's the topic? If you said children, give yourself a pat on the back. If you didn't, what kind of monster are you?! Don't worry, if you said pets or your school kids/staff; I'll still award full credit.

We love to brag about our association, because it's not about us, it's about all of you. The strength of your membership allows us to do things no other principals' associations can do. Some of you have heard this list before, some of you haven't. Ready? Here we go.

No other principals' association has learning centers offering credit-bearing outdoor education classes. Nobody else has a student leadership division, let alone likely the nation's best. Who else owns a leadership framework all the principals in the state are evaluated on? Nobody. Our partnerships with OSPI and state-level education agencies are the envy of other associations.

All this takes time. It does not happen overnight. AWSP and by extension, principals across the state, are fortunate to have had such amazing leadership. It's kind of weird putting your own employees on the cover of your magazine, but last year, it was obvious with Gary Kipp retiring. This year, it's another no-brainer as the Fortins retire after 28 years of leading our learning centers and student leadership.

They aren't the only staff moving on this year (see news briefs). Over the past 18 months, we've lost over 100 years of staff experience. No, that's not a typo. Despite it all, we are stronger than ever. You know why? Because we've had amazing leaders, and leaders build legacies. How can you build yours?

Invest in yourself. Professional development is a deposit in your own bank to build resilience and grit. Then when things get tough, it's easier to stay. Life happens and family must come first, but can you stick it out through the tough times? Principal churn hurts kids. Use your lifelines when you need to and phone a friend — which includes us, by the way.

We are where we are because of the amazing work of those who came before us. So ask yourself, do I want to make an impact, or do I want to build a legacy?

Leaders build legacies.

How will you build yours? ■



David Morrill is the AWSP Communications Director. He serves as Managing Editor for Washington Principal.