

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tacoma Principal Awarded High School Principal of the Year
Jonathan Kellett sets the tone for Stadium High

OLYMPIA—Jonathan Kellett, principal of Stadium High in Tacoma, has been named the state's top high school principal of the year by the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

Kellett, who has been a building administrator for 23 years and a principal for 18, first came to Stadium High in July of 2001. His first task at Stadium was leading the school community through the start and finish of a six-year building renovation. Despite the hurdle of moving students and staff between temporary housing and school buildings, Kellett and staff administrators were able to keep everyone focused on their school identity and implement focused instruction in reading, writing and math.

"It was six years of complexity, being the principal of a future school and an existing one," said Kellett. "We were charged with continually improving the academic achievement of our students, while at the same time, moving the entire school community to a different site while our permanent site was undergoing construction.

"This is a marvelous school and school community with a lot of Stadium spirit. I get a lot of energy from the students, staff, parents and alumni community, and it is a blessing to serve as principal here."

"Jon Kellett is a remarkably capable principal whose focus is on creating a school organization at Stadium High School, which maximizes learning expectations and opportunities for all students," said Bob Mc Mullen, director of high school programs for AWSP. "Jon sets a leadership standard for high school principals in Washington state. His recognition as the 2007 Washington High School Principal of the Year is well deserved."

Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent Charles Milligan describes Kellett as someone who "still seeks knowledge about how to be a better leader and wants to continually improve."

"Other principals could learn a great deal about the approach to the job and the attitudes needed to make a positive difference in the lives of young people by emulating him," Milligan wrote in a letter of support for Kellett.

Before he began his work at Stadium in 2001, Kellett was principal at Evergreen High in the Highline School District for four years and at Peninsula High for five years. Kellett earned a Master of Education from Western Washington University in 1983 and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Idaho in 1978. He has also completed courses at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Kellett was selected as the state's High School Principal of the Year from nine regional finalists. A panel of high school principals who serve on the Association's high school board evaluate the applications. Candidates, both at the state and national level, are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Collaborative Leadership:** Involves teachers, staff members, parents, students and the community in achieving the goals of the school; provides direction or focus to achieve the school's goals as a member of the school's leadership team; models continuous professional growth; balances management tasks with instructional leadership tasks.
- **Personalization:** Establishes and maintains a positive school climate that reflects high student and staff morale; interacts professionally and tactfully with others; creates structures that enable teachers to develop an appreciation for each student's abilities; acknowledges achievement or accomplishments of students and teachers; models values, beliefs and attitudes that inspire others to higher levels of performance; develops and maintains dialogue with representatives of diverse community groups.
- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:** Improves teaching and learning by implementing programs and improvement efforts; observes, supervises and evaluates teachers and instructional programs to maximize the learning opportunities for every student; analyzes multiple sources of data to improve instructional practices and outcomes; demonstrates knowledge of learning, teaching, research and programs that maximize student performance.

Kellett's nomination will put him in the running for the National High School Principal of the Year, a program sponsored by MetLife and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Launched in 1993, the MetLife/NASSP Principal of the Year program annually recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals. It has become a nationally-known vehicle for spotlighting secondary school principals whose schools include some configuration of grades 6-12. Those honored are ones who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, commitment to students and staff, service to their communities and contributions to the overall profession of educational leadership.

Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Department of State, Overseas Schools select one middle level and one high school principal. From these state winners, six finalists (three middle level, three high school) are selected and eligible for the National Principal of the Year award.

Each finalist receives an award and a \$1,500 grant. The National Principals of the Year receive an award and a \$5,000 grant. These grants are used to improve learning at the recipient's school, including, but not limited to, a special school project and/or professional development opportunities.

Kellett will be officially honored at AWSP's Principals' Conference Oct.14-16 in Vancouver. He will also serve as Washington state's representative in the national award program hosted by NASSP. To learn more about the MetLife/NASSP Principal of the year program, visit the Web at www.principals.org.

-30-

About the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP)

The Association of Washington School Principals is a professional association serving principals, assistant principals and principals in training. Formed in 1972, the Association now includes more than 3,500 members from public and private elementary, middle and high schools statewide. It is governed by a board of practicing principals composed of members drawn from three grade-specific boards representing the elementary, middle and high school levels. The mission of AWSP is to support principals and assistant principals and the principalship in the education of all students. For more information on the Association, visit the AWSP Web site at www.awsp.org.