

LEADING in Unprecedented Times

The COVID-19 global pandemic challenges us all to rise as leaders

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None of us could have imagined or predicted our current reality. You were all principaling along per normal in the hustle and bustle of school when all of sudden the world literally came to a stop. School as we knew it, was over. After a few weeks of confusion, worry, and speculation, you overnight became a digital principal. And, overnight, we became an association charged with supporting you in this new virtual reality.

As a result, this spring, the team at AWSP made strategic adjustments in order to continue providing the highest level of support for K-12 principals, assistant principals, and other school leaders in our state.

We are facing unprecedented times in public education right now, and per normal, principals are right in the middle of everything. Your students, staffulty, parents, and community are looking to you for answers to questions that don't have answers yet. You are stuck in between a rock and a hard place, and we get that. Please

continue to reach out and share with us both the amazing success stories you are having while leading during these challenging times AND the barriers you are running up against.

Your communication with us is vital as your professional association shares your voice while sitting at the Zoom table with policymakers, discussing next steps for the K-12 system. Now is the time to make your voice heard and influence the big decisions that will impact you and your school.

Although we are working remotely, our AWSP team is strategically deployed to continue fighting for principals, the principalship and all students. Here's how we have been and continue to be here for you during the crisis:

Advocacy: We are representing your voice at a state-level group defining what "continuous learning" should look like in our state at every level. We are also sharing your reality with the K-12 State Leadership COVID workgroup. And, even though the legislative session is over, now even more than ever, we are reaching out

to our colleagues at the governor's office, OSPI, and state and national representatives to describe your daily realities.

Professional Learning: We are helping principals network with each other within their regions and across the state via Zoom and other platforms. We also continue to encourage YOU to apply for our Networked Improvement Community grants. They can provide financial resources for you to gather — virtually — with your colleagues. We continue to put more and more resources on our AWSP YouTube channel. And, we've committed to bringing the greatest AWSP/WASA Summer Conference ever straight to you — virtually. Plan to join us!

Member Support: You can call 800.562.6100 just like normal and be connected to any one of our amazing staff. Our phones are ringing and we continue to support all of our members throughout the state during this crisis. If you need some quick advice and/or support with an issue regarding your employment, please don't hesitate to give us a call.



“ Your leadership has always mattered, but it matters even more, now.”

Diversity and Equity: Although we've had to cancel the 2020 Equity Summit and the MTSS Fest, our focus hasn't changed. AWSP fights for equitable systems for kids and right now that battle has never been more important. Again, keep reaching out to us about the barriers you are encountering in your district when trying to serve the kids in your school.

Student Leadership: With great disappointment, we have made the difficult, yet necessary decision to not hold our 2020 residential summer camp programs on our campuses. Since 1956, AWSL has offered summer leadership programs for our state. Our conclusion, like the times we are living in, is unprecedented. This decision was not made lightly.

However, our amazing summer staff members are busy developing some unique programming options for this summer. We are working to bring parts of our programs to you at your site. More details will be coming your way in

the next couple of weeks. Even if your school wasn't slated to attend a camp this summer, let us work with your team of leaders this summer.

As you know, AWSL is not one event or camp; it is all of us, together. AWSL is an integral part of AWSP and this is one of your resources to continue your work with student leaders. AWSL looks forward to welcoming you back to events in the next school year and to residential leadership camps next summer.

Check out the long list of resources on the AWSL website at www.AWSLeaders.org.

Learning Centers: While we have not had any visitors since mid-March, Cispus is working ahead on some infrastructure improvements towards our utilities. Cispus is also holding a fundraising campaign of Cispus shirts or Cispus wood cookies. Check out awsplearningcenters.org for more information. And since we are not holding our residential programs on

site this summer, please give us a call. If your school is interested in utilizing Cispus or Chewelah Peak this summer,

Communications: Our team is working tirelessly to mine all of the great COVID related resources out there and update our website daily. That should be your first stop every day. I already mentioned our YouTube channel, but I'll say it again, check it out and subscribe today. We work hard not to bombard you with unnecessary communications, so when you see something from us, take the time to click on it, open it, and read it. We are sending "Principal Matters" out weekly during these closures. Our goal is to help you be an informed and effective school leader.

Finally, as you know, I'm a big believer in hope and relationships as the foundation for our schools, and this has to be one of the hardest times in school history to be a champion of hope. We need to continue to be communicators of hope and do whatever it takes to maintain those relationships with kids.

Your leadership has always mattered, but it matters even more, now. ■