FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Washington State Elementary School Principal of the Year Goes to Spokane Leader
Whitman Elementary Principal Beverly Lund Takes Home the Honors

OLYMPIA – Beverly Lund, principal at Whitman Elementary School in Spokane (Spokane PS), is this year’s Washington State Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Lund was named this year’s Elementary Principal of the Year by the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). A panel of principals representing the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington (ESPAW), a component of AWSP, selected Lund from three finalists out of a field of 17 statewide regional winners.

Lund, who has served as principal at Whitman since 1996, is credited with “fundamentally transforming” the culture of the school. She has brought a no-nonsense approach to her position while at the same time nurturing a strong sense of community. The selection committee called out three accomplishments in particular:

**Intervention for high-risk students.** Lund led professional development in the area of trauma and its impact on learning. Her work grew into a partnership with Washington State University and five area elementary schools in two adjacent districts. The work focuses on building a culture of safety, support, attunement and rigor in which children are best able to develop resiliency while growing socially and academically.

**Inclusive special education delivery model.** After a full-fledged data review, Lund led the charge to make the delivery of special education services more inclusive. One of the most important aspects of the change has been to train and empower all staff to deliver special education services while having the special education teacher serve as the case manager. This has greatly increased the ownership and investment of staff in the progress of special needs students.

**Improving school climate.** Through common focus, quality collaboration and teamwork, Lund led a significant culture change at Whitman. She took an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust between staff and administration and turned it on its head through a no-nonsense approach. She encouraged participation, leadership training and lots of frank conversation. “It was sometimes painful to examine our work and ourselves as professionals,” Lund said. The work has paid off. State assessment scores are up, staff are collaborating and the school has won numerous awards for academic achievement.
“Bev is fearless in holding individual teachers accountable for improvement while encouraging and promoting the professional learning of all teachers,” said Tammy Campbell, Ed.D., executive director at Spokane Public Schools.

Lund began her career as an elementary teacher in the late 1970s at Hofstetter Elementary in the Colville School District. She then taught elementary school in the Mukilteo School District in the Puget Sound area for about five years. She then spent nearly a decade as principal at Lake Stickney Elementary in the Mukilteo area before moving to the eastern side of the state.

Lund earned her bachelor of arts from the University of Washington (Seattle) and her master of arts from Western Washington University (Bellingham).

State and Local Honors
Lund was honored today at a surprise school assembly at Whitman. In October 2012, she will be honored alongside with the middle level and high school principals of the year at AWSP’s annual principals’ conference.

National Honors
The Principal of the Year program is sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and VALIC. The formal award ceremony for all state nominees takes place in Washington D.C. each fall. Nominees participate in a series of events and activities over the course of two days, culminating in a formal awards banquet.

About the Association of Washington School Principals
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 3,400 members from public and private elementary, middle and high schools statewide. It is governed by a board of practicing principals drawn from three grade-specific boards representing the elementary, middle and high school levels. For more information, visit www.awsp.org.

Information on the middle level and high school principals of the year can be found at: www.awsp.org/pressreleases.

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