



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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High school seniors receive Washington’s highest academic honor

OLYMPIA – The Washington Student Achievement Council and Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) announced the names of 196 high school seniors recognized as Washington Scholars or Washington Scholar Alternates for their outstanding accomplishments. The Washington Scholars recognition award represents the highest academic honor conferred by the State of Washington and is awarded to students who demonstrate the educational excellence and civic commitment so vital to the future of our state.

“Washington Scholars exemplify the best in student academic performance, commitment to rigorous standards, and personal accountability. This honor demonstrates that effort and academic discipline matter, and that setting and achieving learning goals is foundational to success,” said Student Achievement Council Executive Director Gene Sharratt.

Three high school students from each of Washington’s 49 legislative districts receive the Washington Scholar award each year, and an additional student from each district is designated as a Washington Scholar Alternate. You can find your district’s Washington Scholars and Alternate on the Council’s [website](#).

The Student Achievement Council and AWSP collaboratively lead the process of selecting Washington Scholars. High school principals nominate candidates based on their cumulative grade point average and SAT/ACT scores, as well as leadership, community service, and other activities. Recipients are then selected by a committee of representatives from public and private high schools, state educational agencies, and public and private four-year colleges and universities.

“These awards not only highlight outstanding academic achievement, but they also recognize efforts in leadership and community service. These recipients represent well-rounded students who are poised to make positive contributions to our society,” said Gary Kipp, Executive Director of the Association of Washington School Principals.

In addition to recognizing the outstanding achievements of graduating seniors, the Washington Scholars program also encourages privately funded scholarship awards by non-state organizations. The program also stimulates recruitment of exemplary students to Washington public and independent colleges and universities.

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the Council provides strategic planning, oversight, and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The Council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers, and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social, and civic benefits of public education, the Council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member Council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. More information about the Council can be found on our website: www.wsac.wa.gov.

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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.

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