

Teacher of the Year

Alecia McAdams-Sing: Nine Mile Falls S.D.

Alecia McAdams-Sing knew at an early age that she wanted to be a teacher.

Years ago, as a student in the Mead School District, she was the one teachers often called on to assist other students needing a hand. Teaching just seemed to come naturally.

Today, that natural affinity, polished by National Board Certification and 16 years of professional teaching experience, has moved her to a larger stage.

McAdams-Sing, an English teacher at Lakeside High School in the Nine Mile Falls School District, has been named the 2016 regional Teacher of the Year.

Colleagues and students alike hail her content knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment to the personal success of every student.

“Students challenge themselves academically because of her, they stay because of her and sometimes they come back because of her,” says Lakeside Principal Brent Osborn. “You will not

find a finer advocate for youth in our community.”

For McAdams-Sing, teaching is about relationships. “I believe the profession of teaching is a high calling and sacred trust,” she says. “The responsibility is an honor and I take very seriously my duty to be a force for good in the lives of my students.”

Since 1999, the Whitworth University graduate has been a force at Lakeside, with teaching assignments ranging from freshman core English, to creative writing to Advanced Placement English Composition. She also heads the National Honor Society and Poetry Out Loud Club.

No matter the assignment, students count on her for high energy, inspiration and mentoring.

She has a passion that inspires even those who walk through her door without inspiration, says Lakeside Librarian Angela Spencer. “She has an innate



ability to make students want to work and think,” says Spencer. “I am proud to work with such an optimistic, motivated and intuitive instructor.”

Teachers at Mead, years ago, correctly observed special qualities in the talented child willing to help her classmates. Thanks, in part, to their encouragement, another generation is pursuing greatness at Lakeside.

Now, as then, the teaching profession remains a high calling and sacred trust. Congratulations, Alecia.



Arndt named to NEWESD 101 Board

Emmett Arndt, a long-time administrator in Spokane area schools, has been named to the Board of Directors of NEWESD 101, filling a vacancy created by the retirement of Robert Bauer.

Arndt is well known in local education circles following 31 years of service with Inland Northwest schools.

His career included 20 years with Spokane Public Schools, 1987-2007, as a high school assistant principal (nine years at North Central and Shadle Park), five years as principal of Shadle Park and six years as a district executive director.

Prior to Spokane, he logged 11 years with the nearby Coeur d’Alene School District as a teacher, coach and assistant principal at the junior high and high school levels.

The Spokane native holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Washington and is a former U.S. Army officer.

Bauer, a resident of Colton, served 12 years on the board in two separate stints dating to 2002.

Thank you, Robert. Welcome, Emmett.

The Lessons of E Flo



Just two weeks after announcing he was taking a leave of absence for health reasons, and only shortly after the 2014-15 school year had ended, Dr. Elson Floyd (photo), Washington State University's 10th president, succumbed to colon cancer.

As a new school year begins, it seems fitting that the story and example of this good man and his incredible leadership be honored and that it, and he, serve as an inspiration and example for each of us in the work in which we are engaged in service to the young people of northeast Washington.

Most people who knew or knew of this wonderful man know that he hailed from humble beginnings in North Carolina, and became the first in his family to earn a college degree. By age 28 he had earned a Ph.D.

His life story serves as an important reminder that simply because kids don't come from affluence, they are still very smart with unlimited potential, and they need educators to believe in them, push them and, importantly, support them. As the year commences, thank you for seeing and lifting up the "Elson Floyds" in your schools and classrooms.

In a very successful career in academia and higher education, Dr. Floyd held numerous leadership positions, including the presidencies of Western Michigan University, the University of Missouri and, from 2007 until his passing in June, Washington State University. Each university was fortunate to have him; WSU particularly so.

When the daughter of some friends of ours was moving into her dorm as a freshman in 2007, Dr. Floyd carried boxes for her to her dorm room ... and it was only later that she and her parents found out he was the new president.

His style was approachable, especially with the students he served – he never forgot that it is students who are the central reason for a university's existence, and must always be the focus of a leader's work. Little wonder that students loved "E Flo," the nickname given him by students at Missouri.

It is well documented that his list of accomplishments while leading Washington's land grant university is long.

These include tripling the amount of research grants WSU annually received (from \$200 million to \$600 million); starting and completing a \$1 billion capital campaign for the university; increasing the university's enrollment by 17% and growing its students of color profile from 14% to almost 27%; opening a fourth branch campus in Everett; and perhaps the crowning achievement of his tenure – fostering bipartisan support for a bill that allows WSU to open a medical school ... that will appropriately bear his name.

Yet, great leader he was, he always understood that he stood on the shoulders of the giants who preceded and surrounded him, not allowing some inflated ego to lead him to think he was bigger than the institution or those who had been or are a part of it.

He knew, as wise leaders do, his charge was to be an excellent steward of the university and to help it progress, assuring he would leave it better than he found it, and prepared to take the next step forward once he left.

A man from humble beginnings in life who rose to arguably the top of his profession, he never lost his humility, or his deeply held commitment to serving students and the region and state in the best way he and the university could.

As we begin a new school year, let's do as his example taught us – nurture the talents and dreams of every young person in our care; do so with unfailing resolve and commitment even when the challenges are great; and carry ourselves with humility and grace at every turn. E Flo will be missed; his example and impact will live on.

Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Focus is published during the academic year by the Superintendent of NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101. Focus is published to provide current information about NEWESD 101-sponsored and co-sponsored programs and issues of educational significance to staff in the 59 public school districts and 45 state-approved private schools receiving administrative and instructional support services from NEWESD 101.

Comments, questions or suggestions should be sent to the editor, NEWESD 101, 4202 S. Regal St., Spokane, WA 99223, (509) 789-3540.

Fall 2015
Volume 30, Number 1

•
Board of Directors

June Sine, Board Chair

Emmett Arndt

Kathy Bumgarner

Gary Coe

J. Rand Lothspeich

Sally Pfeifer

Lynn Trantow

•
Superintendent
Michael Dunn

**NEW
ESD 101**

4202 S. Regal St.,
Spokane, WA 99223

www.esd101.net

Bow ties and bat wings ... NEWESD's Da Vinci Code

Here's one that might stump even the great Robert Langdon, fictional hero in Dan Brown's best-selling book and big-screen blockbuster, *The Da Vinci Code*.

Langdon, a master sleuth in deciphering ancient codes and symbols, would be tasked with this ... translate the meaning of the cryptic symbols that reside at 4202 South Regal, the current home of NEWESD 101; the former home of KHQ-TV.

The symbols, around eight inches high, are found at the front entrance of the building. Four hourglass-like shapes frame each side of the door. A down-pointing lightning bolt passes through the center of each.

Similar ornaments (minus the lightning bolts and less than two inches tall) also were prominent inside the building during the KHQ years. An entire lobby wall was covered in metal depictions of the mysterious hourglasses.

Little is known about the symbols except that they date to the building's construction more than a half-century ago. What do they represent? Perhaps an artistic joining of ancient symbols – time and energy united as one.

Or is that over-thinking it? Are they simply ornaments that seemed attractive or modern in the rabbit ears era of TV? The answer remains elusive. A recent non-scientific survey of KHQ alumni provided some possibilities, and a good deal of humor, but no unanimous decision.



One prominent theory holds that the hourglasses are not hourglasses at all. They're bow ties.

Yes, bow ties. One KHQ legend says the symbols represented the bow ties worn by prominent NBC-TV personalities in the early 60s. But, when the ornaments were glued to the wall, someone allegedly left imprecise instructions for the work crew, which attached them wrong-side up.

While the legend attributes it to an honest mistake, it's an error that begs an obvious question ... if a mistake was made, why was it never corrected? The bow tie theory begins to unravel.

A second possibility suggests the hourglasses are replica martini shakers; and the lightning bolts, a representation of the kick contained within. We won't go there.

A third and final school of thought – the most plausible, but also the least fun – points to no mistakes being made. As seen in the accompanying photo, the hourglass symbols bear an uncanny resemblance to television “bat wings,” the type of antenna perched atop the KHQ tower in those days.

A bat wing antenna transmitting television signals from high above, like lightning bolts. The symbols make perfect sense.

So, while the bat wing theory now seems the most likely explanation, investigators remain open to other possibilities and, in fact, welcome additional independent detective work.

If Dateline NBC does not investigate this real-life mystery, the door is open to Dan Brown to bring Robert Langdon to Spokane for the next installment in the series. Count on black (bow) tie required at the world premiere.

Above: Exterior and interior versions of the hourglass art.

Right: Strong resemblance to a television bat wing antenna.

Welcome to new superintendents

NEWESD 101 extends its welcome and congratulations to the region's new superintendents:

Colfax: Jerry Pugh; Curlew: John Glenewinkel (also continuing in Republic); East Valley: Kelly Shea; Harrington: Justin Bradford; Keller: Wayne Massie; Loon Lake: Brad Van Dyne; Northport: Don Baribault.

Odessa: Dan Read; Orchard Prairie: Howard King; Orient: Calvin Johnson (also continuing in Palouse); St. John-Endicott: Suzanne Schmick.

Like, follow NEWESD 101 online

Staying in touch with NEWESD 101 has never been easier. The latest news updates, course offerings and more can be found at:

 Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/newesdfb>

 Twitter: <https://twitter.com/newesdnews>

Web: www.esd101.net

Likes and follows are much appreciated!

GED test sites expand

While GED testing remains as rigorous as ever, the logistics of taking the test have become a good deal easier with the addition of three new local test sites.

The Spokane County Juvenile Detention School, Structured Alternative Confinement (SAC) Day Reporting School and the Martin Hall Juvenile Detention School – all educational programs administered by NEWESD 101 – have recently come on board as approved Pearson-Vue GED test sites.

Prior to the sites' approval, students tested through Spokane Community College following a typical two-week waiting period. In too many cases, students did not follow through. Now, they can be tested whenever they are ready, in a familiar classroom setting, with test fees fully paid.

Students enrolled in the three programs also enjoy access to abundant online resources including the food workers' examination through the Spokane Regional Health District, career exploration through the Washington Occupational Index System (WOIS) and access to high school credit-recovery programs such as APEX. The online resources supplement the five-period general education classes offered in the three programs.



Jeff Higgins, SAC School, and Char Dewindt, Spokane County Juvenile Detention School and Martin Hall Juvenile Detention School, are GED test administrators.



Saying no!

The message speaks for itself. Results of the Pend Oreille County Healthy Youth Survey depict student attitudes rejecting marijuana use.

The Panther Country Coalition, in concert with Pend Oreille County Counseling Services, funded the billboard – in Newport – featuring prevention role-model students from Cusick, Newport and Selkirk high schools. A second billboard, targeting alcohol use, is planned in the fall.

WaKIDS

Training September 23-24

It's not too late for teachers to enroll in Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS) training. This is a required training for all new or previously untrained full-day kindergarten teachers whose state-funded full-day kindergartens are implementing WaKIDS in the fall of 2015.

A two-day training session is scheduled September 23-24 at NEWESD 101, running from 9-4 each day. Clock hours will be offered. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/WaKIDS>.

AESD accreditation in NEWESD

The 2014-15 school year saw eight regional high schools participate in accreditation through the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD).

Spokane Public Schools' five comprehensive high schools, along with East Valley High School, Medical Lake High School and Paideia High School (Valley School District) were the first schools in our region to use AESD for accreditation.

Jim Whitford, formally with Northwest Accreditation, was the AESD lead. A number of current and former educators participated on initial visitation teams. Final visitation teams included:

- Karen Burnett, WSLA coach and former principal in Maryland and Washington state.
- Erik Ohlund, principal in Spokane and Central Valley School Districts.
- NEWESD Superintendent Dr. Mike Dunn.
- NEWESD Assistant Superintendent Mick Miller.
- NEWESD Teaching & Learning Director Erik Wolfrum.

In addition, NEWESD board members Kathy Bumgarner, Gary Coe, Sally Pfeifer and Lynn Trantow served on statewide approval panels.

The process is designed to use the school's own School Improvement Plan as the vehicle around which accreditation is received. AESD uses a School Improvement Plan Process Review (SIPPR) to guide the review. The process usually occurs within a single school year and accreditation lasts six years.

If you have questions about accreditation, please contact Mick Miller at mmiller@esd101 or (509) 789-3539.

Today's students; tomorrow's entrepreneurs

School innovation takes many impressive forms in northeastern Washington. NEWESD 101's ongoing effort to showcase the region's innovative programs continues in this edition with profiles on two programs serving students in Spokane County – Riverpoint Academy and Spokane Valley Tech.

Riverpoint Academy:

"Failure is not an option." – Actor Ed Harris, portraying NASA flight director Gene Kranz, in the acclaimed 1995 film Apollo 13.

Students in the Mead School District's Riverpoint Academy were not yet born when Harris uttered one of the most famous movie quotes of all time.



They look the same, but why don't they sound the same? Research by Riverpoint senior Sailah Sweeney provided the answer – varnish.

Most, however, are very familiar with the line, though they will quickly add that they don't necessarily agree with it. That's because their world of hands-on learning encourages exploration and risk taking. Counterintuitive as it may sound, successful students, like successful entrepreneurs and inventors, say failure is a necessary and predictable byproduct of invention.

More than predictable, failure also can be highly beneficial, most say, if one reacts to it in a positive way – learning from it, ruling out some approaches, being open to others and ultimately finding solutions.

Positive outlooks are found everywhere at Riverpoint, a project-based, entrepreneurial high school serving 110 high school juniors and

Continued on page 4

Spokane Valley Tech:

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." – Walt Disney.

Sprague, Appleway and University – three of Spokane Valley's most important arterials intersect outside the doors of Spokane Valley Tech (SVT). For commerce and travel, it is one of the busiest and most important intersections in greater Spokane.

It seems a fitting location for SVT. Just like the converging streets outside, SVT has become an intersect point for educational innovation and imagination.

Now in its third year, the school serves 145 students in a consortium including the Central Valley, East Valley, Freeman and West Valley school districts (with priority enrollment given to students in those districts).

SVT actually is an umbrella for three separate, but related programs – a skills center initiative for high school juniors and seniors, an academy program offering core high school subjects and a STEM academy integrating language arts and social studies in a STEM-focused learning environment.

Continued on page 4



Quality control: SVT senior Kevin Rathmanner, left, learns the finer points of metal fabrication from advanced manufacturing instructor Mark Bitz.

Some years ago, for a time, bracelets with the initials WWJD found some popularity. If I could design a meaningful bracelet to wear today, mine would have the initials WWMAS...*what would Maya Angelou say?*

With the 2016 presidential campaign in fairly full swing, and with the convening of Washington state's legislative session this month, contention – and sometimes disagreement bordering on nastiness – too often prevails.

In a society in which we legitimately have differing points of view on any number of issues, the way in which such disagreement is expressed, and the impact of such expression, is concerning.

Which makes me think of Ms. Angelou, an American author, poet and civil rights advocate who famously wrote and said *many* memorable things filled with sage advice, but for me none more powerful than this:

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.

This quote is in a frame hanging on the wall of my office, a gift from the women and men who served as school counselors in the Cheney Public Schools. As counselors, as professionals, these fine people knew well that how people are treated makes the biggest difference in how they feel about you; and, importantly, about themselves.

I think about the people in my personal and professional life who have made me feel positive even though our viewpoints may have differed, and about those who have left a decidedly different impression. I am ever grateful for and appreciative of those who understand the deep wisdom of Maya Angelou's quote; who revere the

primacy of the age-old *Golden Rule* ... treat others as you would want (and hope) to be treated.

Ms. Angelou fundamentally understood that people have differences, yet that no person is at such a station in life that they can respectfully treat others as "less than." She knew that it is always better to talk *directly to and with* people, rather than go to others to talk or complain *about them*.

She was fully aware of the inherent respect and dignity that all people are owed, and that even the quietest voices deserve to be heard.

Whatever position in the education constellation any of us may hold, and despite the differing perspectives we may have about big or smaller issues, each of us should embrace our own important role, and respect the role(s) of others. Our students will derive maximum benefit only when we *each* model respect, civility and a commitment to working through complex issues and contention in productive and respectful ways.

Think about your own teachers, those from your days in a classroom as a student yourself and those who are your teachers and examples in life ... you may not recall exactly what they said or did, say or do, but you undoubtedly are impacted by *how* they say and do it, and by *how* it makes you feel.

As we move forward through a legislative session, through the second half of the school year, indeed through a seemingly endless election season, my fervent hope is that we will do so with a respectful consideration of *what would Maya Angelou say* about the words and actions we choose.



Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Principal summit establishes vision

Earlier this fall, when 27 educators gathered in Snoqualmie for a principal summit, they began laying the foundation for important work that will eventually touch the entire state. The summit, sponsored by the Association of Washington Schools Principals, was called to consider the complex challenges facing today's schools and, even more importantly, the best responses.

The principals discussed school climate and culture, equity, structural challenges, the achievement gap, leadership skills, funding and

other topics. They also discussed the traits, attitudes and habits of an effective principal, including the ability to listen, cope with adversity and form professional learning communities with other principals.

A full report on the summit, offering recommendations and best practices, will be published in the weeks ahead. For more information on principal leadership and the summit, please contact Robyn Davis at (509) 991-9255 or rdavis@esd101.net.

Focus is published during the academic year by the Superintendent of NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101. Focus is published to provide current information about NEWESD 101-sponsored and co-sponsored programs and issues of educational significance to staff in the 59 public school districts and 45 state-approved private schools receiving administrative and instructional support services from NEWESD 101.

Comments, questions or suggestions should be sent to the editor, NEWESD 101, 4202 S. Regal St., Spokane, WA 99223, (509) 789-3540.

Winter 2016
Volume 30, Number 2

Board of Directors

Emmett Arndt

Kathy Bumgarner

Gary Coe

J. Rand Lothspeich

Sally Pfeifer

June Sine

Lynn Trantow

Superintendent
Michael Dunn



4202 S. Regal St.,
Spokane, WA 99223

www.esd101.net

Dan and Karen Hornfelt: Always a cut above

Tell Dan Hornfelt he seems a little chippy, is working against the grain, or remind him he is out on a limb. He will not be offended. More likely, he will agree – and thank you for noticing.

Outside of work, this polished, highly experienced school administrator is a woodsman at heart. Catch him on a weekend and there is a good chance you will find him covered in tiny wood chips. Hornfelt, executive director of support services for Pullman Public Schools, also is an artist. His canvas is wood.

With his wife Karen – a long-time executive secretary for the district, now working for Washington State University – the pair have found an avocation that returns them to their childhood roots, while simultaneously reflecting their love and respect for animals.

Like Michelangelo, who could see art hidden in stone, the Hornfelts see art hidden in wood. The tools of their trade are chainsaws and wood-burning tools.

He carves animal images from large blocks of cedar, red fir and white pine. She etches refined images on smaller blocks of tamarack, birch, maple and elm. Their products are very different, but equally unique and equally inspired by their early years, growing up on the eastern slopes of the Cascades.

Both were raised in the Wenatchee area and spent considerable time outdoors. Their love of the wilderness and animals never left them. Today, living in Pullman, they find themselves in a perfect location for mountain recreation in three states.



Love of animals inspires the artistic work of Dan and Karen Hornfelt.



They honor wildlife through their art. Dan's work includes chainsaw images of bears, beavers, cougars and even fun-loving images of giant sasquatch. Karen's precise living room pieces include depictions of bears, buffalo, deer, elk, moose and salmon.

Candle holders, salt and pepper shakers and a tic-"track"-toe board also are in the family repertoire.

While mostly done for fun, they have sold a few pieces and – someday in retirement – may expand the business side if it does not infringe too much on their wilderness recreation. Chippy jokes notwithstanding, they just enjoy their art.

Sometimes, great beauty can be found in working against the grain.

To see a gallery of the Hornfelts' work, visit <http://khornfelt.wix.com/nwsw>.

Eagles LAKESIDE ROBOTICS RUMBLE

Middle school and high school teams are invited to participate in the 3rd annual Lakeside Robotics Rumble, February 27 at Lakeside High School in Nine Mile Falls.

The event is free and open to any school interested in competing with the ST Educational Robot (distributed by LHS) or Boe Bot. For more information or registration, contact Brent Osborn (509) 340-4203 or bosborn@9mile.org.



staff to quickly access data not easily obtained or reported directly from their Skyward Student Management System.

Content includes information on attendance, discipline and offense, assessment scores, grades and enrollment data. Information can be analyzed at the individual, class, grade, school and district level.

My School Data dashboards also include an Early Warning System identifying students at risk of dropping out of school. An additional High School and Beyond feature combines student profile information with course and grade data to deliver an interactive four-year plan toward graduation.

My School Data is a mobile-friendly application and works with Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Safari for Apple devices. For more information on My School Data or other WSPIC products, please contact Tim Colliver at (509) 789-3584 or tcolliver@esd101.net.

The electronic tools available to local educators have never been greater. Since the start of the 2015-16 school year, educators have enjoyed access to My School Data, a product developed by the Washington School Information Processing Cooperative (WSIPC).

My School Data provides dashboards, allowing teachers, counselors, principals and other curriculum staff to quickly access data not easily obtained or reported directly from their Skyward Student Management System.

Riverpoint Academy...

Riverpoint is roughly patterned after San Diego's High Tech High (HTH), widely considered one of the nation's most successful and innovative schools – renowned for its rigor and personalized instruction.

Like HTH, Riverpoint provides real-world connections leading to college and careers.

More than a pure STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) environment, Riverpoint fully integrates all content areas, with high priority placed on communication.

No one is permitted to hide behind his/her research. Every project concludes with a live presentation (to classmates, teachers, parents and business leaders) explaining the task, challenge and findings. After a short time in the school, even the most shy of students become comfortable public speakers.

Those skills were on display in early December when students presented a diverse array of projects ranging from the way the body breaks down and rebuilds muscle during and after exercise, to creation of a solar stove, to construction of a Rubens Tube (visualizing sound), to a scientific comparison of the way varnish affects the tone of a violin.

It's high-level, real-world research that puts students in good stead for the future – learning teamwork, analysis, budgeting, construction, marketing and, last but not least, resilience – which bring us back to the question of failure.

"Across our society, people are afraid to fail and sometimes fall apart when things don't go well," says Riverpoint Principal Moleena Harris. "That's not the case with our students. The message we hear over and over from our graduates is that Riverpoint provided them the confidence to persevere when adversity strikes."

Yes, attitude matters. Everyone hits bumps; only the most successful bounce back.

While the school is still evolving, the early returns are highly encouraging. In its first two graduating classes, Riverpoint saw 83 percent of its seniors matriculate to college – a rate already rivaling its model (High Tech High, 86 percent).

With no disrespect meant to Gene Kranz, "Failure is not an option" will not be emblazoned on the walls at Riverpoint.

A better choice might be this timeless, inspirational gem attributed to Benjamin Franklin, "The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all – doing nothing."

He was right – no mistake about it.

It's Brent:

The print edition of NEWESD 101's Fall 2015 *Focus* newsletter incorrectly identified the principal of Lakeside High School. The principal is Brent Osborn. Our apologies for any confusion.

Spokane Valley Tech...

The STEM academy, which opened this year to freshmen, will expand to a four-year program with the addition of new classes each of the next three years.

For students in all three tracks, SVT allows students to jump-start their college and work careers through deep dives into a host of specialized areas.

They include advanced bio-medicine, advanced manufacturing, engineering, sports medicine, entrepreneurship, environmental engineering, fire science, emergency medical technician, alternative energy and advanced computer science.

SVT also offers weekly programs for younger students, both on-site and at local elementary schools.

Connections to the workplace, always at the fore, are cultivated through partnerships with 225 local businesses offering support through adult mentors and/or formal internships.

KeyTronicEMS, a long-time Spokane Valley electronic manufacturing company, is one of SVT's most valuable partners, offering students 90-hour internships that can be stretched over a year. The experience simulates the actual workplace, with students assigned their own work stations, just like the professional staff.

Director Scott Oakshott says SVT offers a rich environment for students seeking small classes, in-depth study (classes are taught in two-hour blocks) and knowledge directly related to college entrance and/or job placement.

What kind of training and certification is required for physician assistants, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) or builders of Boeing airliners? And what do the jobs pay?

SVT students have done the research; they can quote the educational requirements, job placement numbers and salary figures.

By the time they leave SVT, seniors Levi Meinzinger and Kolby Thomas will have earned their EMT certification. Both see that credential fast-tracking their careers in health care.

Savannah Criddle sees herself eventually owning a business. As a high school junior, she can already write the business plan.

In the advanced manufacturing and technology classrooms, students use computer software to design, visualize, simulate and construct products.

On a recent winter morning, senior Tristan Cox and junior Riley Langston were constructing a robot for an upcoming competition. Just like the workplace, teamwork is considered an essential element of success.

While traffic passes through the important intersection outside SVT, the intersection of school and the workplace thrives inside the walls. In 2015, SVT was named a STEM Lighthouse school – one of only six in the state – for exemplary instruction in science, technology, engineering and math.

At SVT, school and career dreams are coming true. There is no "if" about these students' courage to pursue them.

Ben Green – police officer and ambassador

When he walks into a classroom wearing khaki pants and a polo shirt, Ben Green could easily pass for a teacher at Spokane County's Structured Alternative Confinement (SAC) School.

While he's not part of the NEWESD 101 teaching staff at the school, he is a teacher of sorts. And a mentor. And an adviser. And a father figure to young people who have not always made good choices.

Ben Green is a Spokane police officer. While a casual observer might think that distinction would make him persona non grata at a school serving juvenile offenders under court supervision, just the opposite is true.

To students at the SAC School, Green is a dependable friend whose wise counsel can be called on at any hour.

While Green can't help them undo bad choices already made, he can and does help them make good choices going forward.

For the past two years, Green was a "one-stop cop" for youth. That meant that in addition to his law enforcement duties, he also was a clearinghouse for all manner of help and referrals from housing assistance to hearings before Child Protective Services.

While reassigned back to patrol earlier this year, he still visits the SAC School on a regular basis, on his own time, to simply check in. He invites students' opinions, offers advice and answers questions on any topic. Sometimes, the only thing students ask of him is that he be present to offer moral support.

Other times, they ask for dogs. In April, students asked if a future visit might include one of the department's K9 officers. A month later, Green delivered two – a classic German Shepard and one of the department's new additions, a bloodhound used for tracking missing persons.

"What I do is based on what I learned and came to love during that two years, but now I do that as an extra, outside of my daily patrol duties," says Green.

Ultimately, he is an ambassador for the Spokane Police Department. While his SAC School efforts are largely conducted outside of work hours, they very much complement SPD's larger community outreach efforts, which include the Spokane Police Athletic League and the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI).

The former is a program engaging potential at-risk youth with positive athletic, academic and community service programs; the latter breaks the cycle of mutual distrust that commonly



Spokane Police Officer Ben Green converses with SAC School students.

exists between youth and police by engaging the two sides in honest face-to-face conversation.

Kathi Tribby-Moore, a SAC School teacher, says the benefits of Green's visits have grown exponentially.

"In the beginning, our hope was that Ben's presence might reduce the number of loitering complaints we were hearing from court-house visitors," she said. "It made people uncomfortable when they saw groups of students hanging outside our building and not always behaving appropriately."

Enter Officer Green. Almost instantly, the loitering problem ended, but not because a police officer scared the students into action. Rather, it was more a case of the young people not wanting to let down a trusted adviser who happens to carry a badge.

Since his first appearance, school behavior has improved and expectations are higher. Watching the classroom interaction between Green and the SAC School students, it is apparent that the bonds are tight and trust is high.

And with every visit, Officer Green plants another seed of possibility. He reminds students that lifetime success begins with little things, positive things, added together, bit by bit.

Success begets success. Sometimes, it just takes a caring adult to show the way.

Excellent teachers; from beginning to end

Combined, 150 years of service, leadership and expertise. *A century and a half.* Even someone like me, who was not a math major and who doesn't understand some of the math strategies students are being asked to learn today via curricula like *engageNY*, knows that's a big number and a long time.

In this case, those 150 years belong to four colleagues with whom I have been fortunate enough to work and from whom I've been lucky to learn, and each is retiring in June following stellar and impactful careers in our profession. Annually at year's end colleagues retire, and assuredly it would be fitting to write about each professional in our region who has decided the time is right to bring an end to his or her career. The space of this column prohibits that; so in writing about *these* four leaders, by extension, hats off to *all* retirees – *especially* those who will retire at *this* year's end.

Each of the educators about whom I write here has made gigantic contributions to our profession, and with and for the people they have served and led. One is retiring as a superintendent in our own region and has superbly led his district for a decade. Earlier in both of our careers I got to work with him as a fellow high school principal, and I know well that in every position he has held he has never waived from the guiding principle of doing right by the young people he served, as well as by those who directly served the kids.

Three others are leaders who have each led their respective ESD regions for many years as superintendent. One had been in his role for 16 years, and is among the most principled human beings I have ever known. He misses no detail, and at every turn advocates for what is right and needed. Everyone with whom he has worked knows well that in his, his particular region and the whole of our state are in the most capable hands.

Another has been in his role as an ESD superintendent for slightly less time, yet had previously served in the same region he leads – as both a

district superintendent and central office leader. He has been a champion for many things during his distinguished career, but especially for CTE programs, understanding that not every student wants or needs a four-year, university degree – even as each student *does* need high quality post-secondary education and training.

And the other has served as leader of his ESD region for the past six years, and had also been a successful district superintendent, high school principal, and successful teacher and basketball coach in that region previously. One of the most passionate and energetic human beings I have ever known, he has never shied away from taking on causes that are important to students and educators, and has actively engaged in the halls and meeting rooms in Olympia to advocate for needed legislation.

None of these four leaders ever lost sight of why they chose education and became teachers in the first place, *and fundamentally each has remained a brilliant teacher to the end.* And I believe that everyone who worked with or was served by all of them knows we are better, richer and taller as a result.

I cannot help but believe that if the important decisions being made today, regarding what is needed in education, were left to the wisdom of these life-long educators, education policy – and the genuine education of our students – would be so much more relevant and meaningful.

To Dr. Paul Sturm, Dr. Jerry Jenkins, Mr. Bruce Hawkins and Mr. Steve Myers – as well as to their fellow retirees across our region and state this year, indeed to all of the giants who've gone before us and on whose shoulders we stand – a heartfelt thanks for jobs *very* well done; careers *very* well led. And for the incredible examples you provided, and lasting legacies with which you leave us.



Michael Dunn, Superintendent

WaKIDS
Four summer
training
opportunities

WaKIDS training is required for all new or previously untrained full-day kindergarten teachers whose state-funded full-day kindergarten schools will be implementing WaKIDS in the fall of 2016.

Participants may choose from four, two-day workshops: June 22-23, July 21-22, July 26-27 and August 9-10. Brochure: <http://goo.gl/xoc2KS>. For more information, contact Anne Knott at (509) 456-7086 or aknott@esd101.net.

Focus is published during the academic year by the Superintendent of NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101. Focus is published to provide current information about NEWESD 101-sponsored and co-sponsored programs and issues of educational significance to staff in the 59 public school districts and 45 state-approved private schools receiving administrative and instructional support services from NEWESD 101.

Comments, questions or suggestions should be sent to the editor, NEWESD 101, 4202 S. Regal St., Spokane, WA 99223, (509) 789-3540.

Summer 2016
Volume 30, Number 3

•
Board of Directors

Emmett Arndt

Kathy Bumgarner

Gary Coe

J. Rand Lothspeich

Sally Pfeifer

June Sine

Lynn Trantow

•
Superintendent
Michael Dunn

**NEW
ESD101**

4202 S. Regal St.,
Spokane, WA 99223

www.esd101.net

NEWESD 101 Open Doors ... it's more than just a GED

If ever a piece of legislation were given a perfect name, it was a bill passed by the Legislature in 2010 creating a new dropout reengagement program. Today, that initiative is known as Open Doors – the perfect description for a program that literally opens doors to opportunity for dropouts, ages 16-21.

Doors that were seemingly closed, locked and even nailed shut, have been flung open, off the hinges, stirring the hopes and dreams of students unaccustomed to success. NEWESD 101, one of the first Open Doors pilot sites, typically orients about 10 new students each week, with more than 100 on the active roster at any given time.

While the program, at its most basic level, is about re-entering and completing school, that is just the beginning. “Our desired outcome for students is not just a GED,” says NEWESD 101 Program Director Trina Clayeux. “We continually reinforce the message that a GED is not the end point – it’s the starting point, the gateway, to employment and post-secondary success.”

For many, the road to success has been long and arduous, complicated by survival issues – housing, clothing, food and transportation – that have bounced education to a low priority. Clayeux and a staff of 3.5 case managers and teachers fill that void, providing essential referrals to meet basic needs, freeing students to focus on school – and the future. Classroom instruction, including GED preparation, is available 40 hours per week, with active participants required to complete no less than six hours of classroom time each week.

Partners in the NEWESD 101 initiative include the Central Valley, Cheney, Mead, Nine Mile Falls and Spokane school districts. Since July 2015, 55 students have passed GED exams and word of the program draws ever-large crowds of walk-ins seeking information, referrals and counseling.



Open Doors is one of several programs found at the Next Generation Zone, Spokane County’s only education, training, and employment center for young adults, ages 16-24.

Yes, Open Doors is much more than a GED. For all who enter, the real prize is the opportunity to succeed in life.

Centennial student earns art honor

What do you do for an encore after winning a local art contest? If you’re Ted Rogers, a talented artist with autism, you step up to a larger stage and win a regional honor.

A year after winning honors in the Millwood Farmers’ Market, Rogers, a seventh-grader at Centennial Middle School (West Valley School District), saw his work selected by the Northwest Autism Center for reproduction on hundreds of t-shirts.

Autism is a world-wide health concern, but the real challenges occur at home, in families, schools and neighborhoods. The Northwest Autism Center supports, facilitates and builds accessible and comprehensive, community-based approaches to helping children and adults with autism spectrum disorders in the Inland Northwest.

Ted, who’s also an honor roll student at Centennial, says his winning piece, entitled “Different but Beautiful,” was inspired by his belief that, “I think everyone is OK the way they are. Difference is what makes them special.”

Kudos, Ted, on your latest award.



Ted Rogers, center, and Centennial staff members Teandra Marshall and Aya Holden wear the shirts sporting Rogers’ winning design.

Debra White earns regional Classified honor



Debra White

There must be something special in the drinking water around Millwood. For the third time in six years, an employee of the West Valley School District has been named NEWESD 101’s regional Classified Employee of the Year.

The 2016 honoree is Debra White, West Valley’s district data coordinator – the person responsible for student records and state reporting.

She oversees the Skyward software system, a sophisticated program for tracking the records of 3,900 students – everything from grades, to attendance, to school lunch accounts. From her base at Spokane Valley High School, she manages an electronic system important to every school, student, teacher and family in the district.

She follows in the footsteps of prior West Valley award winners Mary Collins (2012) and Brian Liberg (2011).

Missy Repp: Take a bow

Students and staff in St. John-Endicott have always considered her something special and not because she teaches special education.

No, when people in SJE think about Missy Repp, the first things that come to mind are her smile, enthusiasm and commitment to kids.

And now, the same qualities that distinguish her in the classroom have earned her elite honors as a teacher-leader in the state.

Earlier this spring, Repp was selected for the Expanding Capacity in Special Education Leadership (ECSEL) program, a highly competitive master's degree program open to just 18 teachers in the state.

Repp was the only candidate selected from the state's northeast region and one of only two from east of the Cascades. The application process was rigorous, requiring multiple letters of recommendation, including one from NEWESD 101 Special Education Director Fran McCarthy.



Fran McCarthy and Missy Repp

Later this summer, Repp will begin a two-year cohort program through the University of Washington-Bothell.

Upon completion, she will walk away with her second master's degree – this one in educational leadership. Congratulations, Missy.

WA Achievement Award: 27 winners

Twenty-seven schools from 16 regional districts were honored May 24 at NEWESD 101 following their selection as 2015 winners of the Washington Achievement Award.

The award recognizes top-performing schools on statewide assessments the previous three years.

To be selected, schools must be among the state leaders in at least one of these categories: overall excellence; high progress; English Language Arts growth; math growth; extended graduation rate (awarded to high and comprehensive schools only); English Language acquisition; and achievement gap.

Schools also must have at least 95 percent participation on state tests to qualify for recognition.

Congratulations to all on a job well done.

The 2015 honor roll includes:

<i>District</i>	<i>School</i>
Almira	Almira Elementary
Central Valley.....	Horizon Middle School; Summit School
Colfax.....	Leonard M. Jennings Elementary
Davenport.....	Davenport Elementary; Davenport Senior High School
Garfield	Garfield Elementary
Liberty.....	Liberty High School
Mead	Brentwood Elementary; Mountainside Middle School
Medical Lake	Hallett Elementary
Nine Mile Falls	Lakeside Middle School
Pullman	Franklin Elementary; Jefferson Elementary
Reardan-Edwall.....	Reardan Middle/Sr. High School
Selkirk.....	Selkirk Elementary
Spokane.....	Adams Elementary; Browne Elementary; Franklin Elementary; Hamblen Elementary; Libby Center; Sacajawea Middle School; Wilson Elementary
St. John.....	St. John Elementary
Tekoa.....	Tekoa Elementary
West Valley	Spokane Valley High School; West Valley High School

NEWEC awarded two Hagan Fdn. grants

The Northeast Washington Education Council (NEWEC) has been awarded a pair of grants totaling \$14,529 from the Spokane-based Hagan Foundation.

NEWEC, a non-profit 501(c)(3) affiliate of NEWESD 101, received the awards on behalf of NEWESD 101's centers for Instructional Services and Juvenile Detention School Services. The awards:

\$6,000 to fund a regional "game jam," a technology competition for middle school and high school students. Patterned after a 2014 White House event, the regional competition will task students with creating a game built around a real-world STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) issue.

\$8,529 to acquire computers for juvenile offenders associated with the Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center, regional Martin Hall Detention Center and Structured Alternative Confinement program. NEWESD 101 provides the educational component for all three detention programs.

Hagan generosity also was shared with districts across northeastern Washington who received 24 grants in the most recent funding cycle. One recipient district, Harrington, posted a YouTube video showcasing the improvements to its agriculture-mechanics shop made possible by Hagan. Link: <https://goo.gl/GxAPAc>.

Onion Creek: National winner!

Congratulations to the Onion Creek School District – grand-prize recipient of the national "Let it Grow" competition sponsored by Discovery Education and the Nutrients for Life Foundation. The award, which carries a \$5,000 prize, is part of a national initiative aimed at soil science.

Great job, Onion Creek.