If imitation is the highest form of flattery, Tim Larson has reached a higher level than most people will ever know.

Just how high? High enough that other people have named their kids after him.

Twice in his teaching career, parents have been so appreciative of the impact he had on their children that their next-born boys were given Timothy as a first or middle name.

How do you top that for a high compliment?

Recognition from colleagues is a good start. And if you are a teacher in the seven-county NEWESD 101 region, there is no higher honor than being named regional Teacher of the Year – the title Larson recently received for 2017.

The veteran third grade teacher at Odessa Elementary School in the Odessa School District, wears that honor following his selection for the award in August.

Larson, who is entering his ninth year at Odessa, started his career in a much larger district, Vancouver. Family ties (his wife Jill also is an Odessa teacher) eventually prompted a return to Eastern Washington, where the couple and their two children enjoy the close relationships and sense of community unique to small towns.

Larson is a difference-maker. “Knowing every child can succeed, regardless of ability, is one of Tim’s greatest beliefs,” says Odessa Principal Jamie Nelson. “His attitude is infectious and his students all believe they can learn and achieve and are proud to show their documented growth.”

Parent and fellow teacher Jeff Wehr calls Larson one of the finest teachers he has known in a nearly two-decade career – arriving early, working late, staying positive and mentoring students who “respond with incredible state exam scores and high expectations, both academically and socially.”

Wehr knows of what he speaks. In 2011, he was the region’s Teacher of the Year.

For Larson, success begins with relationships. Every child is known, not just by name, but by need. He understands their learning styles, meets them at their level and – critically – reassures all students they have his unconditional support.

“Students can’t succeed if they are saddled with fear,” he says. “In Odessa, students know we care and want them to succeed. If someone falls out of the boat, they know we will turn around and pick them up.”

Therein lies the kindness and empathy that are the foundation of Larson’s success – and the foundational qualities that describe a very deserving Teacher of the Year.

Congratulations, Tim.
A time to teach

...and a time to learn.

The start of a school year always means a renewal of teaching and learning, after a summer during which it is hoped that both were practiced, at least a bit.

This particular school year’s beginning, as is true once every four years, coincides with a national (and state) election season. What a time, then, to teach, and to learn, and to think and learn to think … in the context of things that really matter.

At its base, an important goal of education in this country is that learning and teaching result in informed citizens who are able to wisely make work our history of self-government; that we are able to implement democracy in a way that works for and improves the lives of all who are willing to work hard and participate fully in our republic.

Elections, however, are different today than they once were. Just as Barbara Oelberg has said that, “children haven’t changed; childhood has,” so it is true with elections in an electronic age of pervasive social media, uses and abuses of the internet, and TV/cable/radio “news” that really isn’t news.

Hence, the opportunity to teach our students, and help them learn, that what is said, how it is said, whether it is true, matters. That intentions matter … regarding treatment of people and commitment to working through the challenges that are part of compromise that might ultimately lead to addressing, even solving, difficult and important issues.

As one who began as a teacher many years ago, I see young people in our classrooms today as generally more accepting and appreciative of difference than I perceived once may have been true. Less judgmental, more understanding.

I see kids who want, and need, hope; who can have faith that their future will be filled with a promise that matches the diligent work they are expected to put forth to meet the high standards we have for them.

I see students who sincerely need educators who can help them learn to think for themselves as they make sense of both fact and fiction with which they are barraged; educators who can and will help them make sense of the myriad challenges and opportunities that pervade the interconnected world we all share.

In an election season in which we are all exposed to both the promise and the less savory parts of self-rule, our students are well-served by a shared commitment to helping them learn not what to think, but how to think through things that really matter; that will have potentially large or lasting impacts on their lives.

When examples students see in the media or online don’t always reflect the best of who we are, our example and commitment as dedicated educators becomes that much more significant.

Now is a time to learn indeed. Thanks to all for embracing the opportunity with which we are blessed, anew, to thoughtfully and meaningfully teach … assuring our students will learn in the same vein.

Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Early childhood PD …

Register now for professional development offered by NEWESD 101’s Center for Early Childhood Education. Upcoming topics and dates:

Full-day Kindergarten: October 5 and 13; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Cost: $200.

Early Numeracy (full-day workshops): October 3, November 7, December 7; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Cost: $100 per day or $275 for all three.

Early Numeracy (evening workshops): October 18, November 8, December 6; 4:30 to 8 p.m. each day. Cost: $80 per day or $225 for all three.

For information and registration: www.esd101.net/Page/723 or contact Anne Knott, (509) 456-7086, aknott@esd101.net.

... and more

For the complete list of fall workshops offered by NEWESD 101 – an expansive list covering the full spectrum of teaching and learning – please see our Events catalog at http://tinyurl.com/esdcourses.
The Big Apple beckons

Once, when seeking television coverage for his talented student musicians, a high school band director was told he was the most persistent “non-TV personality” the producer had ever met.

It was a compliment. The producer appreciated that he was determined, but polite.

Meet Jim Loucks, band director at West Valley High School. Serious and thoughtful on the outside; bulldog determined on the inside. When it comes to his band kids at West Valley, there is no mountain he won’t climb and no ocean he won’t cross to increase student opportunity.

Take a trip to New York, for instance. Last year, Loucks submitted an application for the WV Band and Color Guard to perform at the 2016 Veterans Day Parade, November 11, and Patriotic Concert in Times Square, November 12.

It was a long-shot from the get-go. The 80-member unit was probably too small to get a serious look from anyone in the Big Apple.

Undeterred, Loucks submitted an application anyway. What he didn’t know at the time was that the New York organizers were putting forth some extra effort of their own. They found a video of the WV band on YouTube and were sufficiently impressed.

An acceptance letter came. West Valley was one of only 15 bands in the nation invited to the two events honoring servicemen and women (day two) and 9/11 emergency responders (day two).

Immediate reactions of joy were quickly tempered by reality. Travel to New York for students and chaperones would exceed $100,000. Loucks, however, never flinched. He immediately devised a comprehensive fundraising and marketing plan.

It included the usual school staples – auctions, craft fairs and car washes – but, even more significantly, major gifts from individuals and the business community.

It all came naturally. Earlier in his career, you see, Loucks honed his marketing and business skills as a professional music editor and publisher.

The end result is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for his students, many of whom have never been on a plane. They will perform before an estimated half-million spectators and take in as many historic sites and artistic events (including a Broadway performance of Phantom of the Opera) as Loucks can squeeze into a five-day trip.

They will also honor America. Outside the band room at WVHS are the pictures of family members who served our country. While in New York, students will wear military inspired dog tags honoring their relatives and all who wore a uniform.

They will also learn and remember. Fifteen years have passed since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Upper-classmen were too young to remember and under-classmen were not yet born. Yet by the time they return to Spokane, all will be familiar with that fateful day and its lasting impact on the nation.

The fundraising drive has entered the home stretch (donations still welcome) and rehearsal has been under way for months. On November 7, the band will provide a sneak preview of its New York program in a 7 p.m. concert at the high school. The next day, it’s off to New York.

The trip will leave lasting memories, to be sure, but more than that, it will leave an enduring example of what is possible when dreams meet action. An eagle figurine sits on Loucks’ desk with the saying, “Strength, it is not in numbers, it’s in singular determination.”

Loucks continually implores his students to stretch themselves, reminding them nothing is impossible with a great work ethic, a commitment to excellence, and a “singular” determination to be one of the best.

Better yet, students should just follow their teacher’s example. Set the bar high. Be persistent and be polite. Success will follow.

Editor’s note: Jim Loucks was the 2010 Teacher of the Year in the seven-county region served by NEWESD 101. For more information on the New York trip: jim.loucks@wvsd.org.
New museum takes flight in Spokane

Enter Spokane’s new Honor Point Military and Aerospace Museum and you will experience something seldom seen even at the famed Smithsonian.

The airplanes here are not retired shells, retrieved from the boneyard and restored only on the outside.

No, at Honor Point, every historic plane on display is still flying. The exhibit is dynamic, as vintage planes can roll in and out of the gallery/hangar on a weekly basis. The museum also is unique in that it’s not just about airplanes. It’s also about history and education.

Interactive exhibits and special programs allow students to explore a range of STEM topics around themes of aviation and space. Honor Point, located at Felts Field, is Spokane’s newest museum, filling a niche left by the closure of the Fairchild Heritage Museum more than a decade ago.

While still in the formative stages, museum directors plan a substantial education program, initially targeting grades 4-8.

Educational events already have begun and the museum has partnered with Seattle’s Museum of Flight to acquire additional standards-based programs.

Former Reardan-Edwall Superintendent Doug Asbjornsen is a member of the museum board and the leader of its educational initiatives.

The museum is located at 6105 E. Rutter Ave. For information on upcoming Fall programs, please visit www.honorpoint.org or contact Doug at dashjornsen@gmail.com.

NEWSED 101 snapshots

Beginning with this issue, our Focus newsletter will offer a new feature … a snapshot of NEWSED 101 employees.

Virtually all NEWSED staff interact with local districts. While relationships are typically strong, they also can be limited to small groups of district personnel in job-alike categories. With this issue, we introduce others you may not know.

NEWSED services run wide and deep – curriculum and instruction, financial services, educational technology, administrative support and communications. Today, we introduce some of our staff who make things happen for local districts.

**The resident artist**

Stroll by the desk of Tracy Poindexter-Canton at NEWSED 101 and you will see personal artwork on the wall, not unlike many of her co-workers. The difference, however, is that Poindexter-Canton did not acquire her pieces at a store. She created them herself.

Outside of her job in NEWSED 101’s Center for Special Education, Poindexter-Canton is an artist affiliated with the Gallery Onyx in Seattle’s Belltown neighborhood. Over the summer, she was one of 22 artists featured in an Onyx regional exhibit at the public library in Richland.

While her artistic journey has not been continuous, it may have been predictable. Growing up in Spokane, she found early success and enjoyment in myriad forms of visual and performing arts. But, because academics came first, most of her artistic interests were placed on hold after graduation from Lewis and Clark High School and an undergraduate education at Seattle University.

Seven years later, they returned with a passion. Fresh off a master’s degree from Gonzaga University, she dove into local, non-credit art classes to expand and refine her skills.

Her first works included an expansive series of portraits featuring African-American music legends Miles Davis, Etta James, Johnny Mathis, John Coltrane and others. For the Richland exhibit, she submitted a portrait of “The First Lady of Song,” Ella Fitzgerald.

The tools of her trade include mostly graphite, acrylics and colored pencils. But her specialty is mixed-media – combinations of material that create rich, layered, three-dimensional pieces. To a blank canvas she may add paint, scrapbook paper, magazine clippings, bubble wrap, netting, even feathers and beads. The possibilities extend as far as her imagination.

She appreciates bold colors and impressionistic designs that value the artist’s perception more than the reproduction of exact details.

She finds inspiration in little things, powerful things, that stir her creativity … a photo, a song, a flower, a book. From that inspiration comes artistic magic. Just stroll by her desk to see it.
NEWESD 101 opens a new chapter at Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital

NEWESD 101 always has been well known for its commitment to students in non-traditional settings. Earlier this year, that commitment rose to a new level, and a new venue, with the creation of a school-based program at Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital.

Veteran teacher Amy Larson was brought aboard to serve students admitted to the hospital for extended stays.

The program is a model of teamwork – a collaborative effort between NEWESD 101, which employs the teacher; the hospital, which provides the facility and support services; and the Rypien Foundation, which provides the funding.

Coordination between the partners is seamless, virtually invisible to hospital clients, as Larson works hand-in-hand with Maggie Rowe, the hospital’s school liaison who handles the non-curricular needs of students/patients. Soon, they will be joined by another NEWESD employee, a para-professional who will assist in the classroom.

Larson’s mornings are spent with students, one-on-one; afternoons feature an open classroom available to all-comers between the ages of 5-18. Morning sessions are highly individualized, ranging from a few minutes to an hour and a half, depending on the students’ need, stamina and treatment schedule.

While workloads can vary widely based on inpatient admissions, a typical day may see Larson working with 15 students/patients with a variety of medical diagnoses.

The hospital’s education model is built on a strong research base tied to the unique educational needs of young people facing medical challenges.

The hospital-based school is affiliated with the Association for the Education of Children with Medical Needs and the Association of Pediatric Hematology Oncology Educational Specialists, both of which identify best practices in teaching.

Maya Angelou once wrote that nurses have the opportunity to heal the heart, mind, soul and body of their patients. At Sacred Heart Children’s Hospital, the privilege and opportunity is not limited to nurses. Just ask Amy Larson.
Do you ever miss childhood?

Honestly, I am grateful for every age I have been lucky enough to live, and I am not delusional about my childhood being particular “wonder years” in any way. As a society, and as a profession, we have made much progress since the time I was young. Yet, when I think back on those years I think of at least two things.

Lessons my mom and dad taught me. And pendulums. I thought a great deal about both throughout the 2016 election, and I am thinking about both as we move forward in its aftermath.

I was taught to be respectful. Taught to understand that how I treated other people, and anything I said or wrote about them, mattered. Taught that everyone has a right to basic human dignity and respect, regardless of their station in life. And taught that all people, regardless of gender, religion, race, national origin or lifestyle orientation deserve the same basic human rights, opportunities and choices.

I was taught the importance of moderation; that too much of anything likely wasn’t all that good for you. Including political persuasion. My parents leaned a particular way, as do I, but they taught me about respecting a different point of view. Indeed, they taught me that no one does or perhaps should get everything one wants; that you don’t always get your way and shouldn’t. Really, they taught about both the necessity and the beauty of compromise, about the center, about finding common ground.

And I was taught to respect the democratic way of life and governance that life in this country entails. Both in school and at home I was taught how the three, independent branches of government are designed to work, and that each play a role in our republic, as thoughtfully defined by the framers of our Constitution.

And I was taught that I should respect the men and women who hold elected or appointed positions in each. Indeed, in my childhood home, whomever was elected President became someone we should at least RESPECT as the position itself commands.

I am grateful for these and countless other lessons from my childhood. And I wonder, are they lost or can we recapture them?

And I think, too, about pendulums. In so many ways things are better now than when I was a kid. Yet in some ways, they may not be. Some pendulum swings have been needed and must sustain; others I wish were not as extreme. I wish we had a United States Congress and a state Legislature, each with elected leaders, that cared more about tackling real issues and solving real problems, for a greater good, than about partisanship. I wish professions like ours, while assuredly better today than once may have been true, were more respected and less measured and criticized.

I wish, I guess, that after the most incredible election I can ever remember, that all of us might find the path to work together to build on our strengths and address our shortcomings, without any of us abusing power or falling prey to ideological demagoguery. And I wish that as citizens, and professionals, none of us would tolerate leaders or institutions who engage in either.

While we don’t need to return to where we once were; we, and especially our students, are not overly well served by remaining exactly where we have arrived amidst the politics of division. America is not perfect but it is great. The same can be said of our state, our local communities, and our schools and districts. And while our striving to become a more perfect union (state, community, profession) must never end, that journey may just very well need to heed some childhood lessons we would be wise to recall.

Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Calling student scientists

Spokane STEMposium has transitioned into the Eastern Washington Regional Science and Engineering Fair. It is scheduled March 16, 2017 at WSU Spokane. The event is open to students in grades 6-12 who reside in Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties. Adams County students will participate in the Mid-Columbia regional fair in Kennewick, March 9-11. Spokane fair information: http://www.spokanestemposium.com. Kennewick fair information: https://www.midcolumbiasciencefair.org. Questions about the Spokane event may be directed to Sylvia Oliver, Ph.D., at (509) 358-7635 or olivers@wsu.edu.
**New kids on the block**

In addition to the veterans profiled here, two new staff members recently joined the NEWESD 101 team as fiscal systems managers – Meghan Setzer and Alan Steinolfson. Setzer is a Spokane native, a graduate of Eastern Washington University and a former employee of Spalding Auto Parts and Group Health Cooperative.

Steinolfson grew up in Davenport, is a graduate of Carroll College and a former employee of Red Lion Hotels. Both bring strong backgrounds in finance that will serve them well in their service to local districts.

Welcome Meghan and Alan.

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**Dan the Man**

Dan Fuller, lead teacher at the Spokane County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) School, spends all of his working days helping students learn the value of education and believe they can change.

For 29 years, he has committed his life to serving youth seeking second chances (NEWESD 101 provides the educational services in three Spokane County juvenile detention programs).

In a typical year, more than 1,000 regional youth pass through the JDC. All have committed felonies. Some are there just a few days; some a few months; and a few, up to two years.

Regardless, all receive an education tailored to their individual needs and coordinated with their home district. Some are overachievers; some cannot read. Few have experienced significant school success.

For many, “Dan the Man” as he is known to students, is their beacon of hope – the guy who inspires them to get up after life has knocked them down. In an environment where the recidivism rate is high, Fuller continually preaches high standards and positive thinking with a focus on the future, not the past.

He teaches five periods a day in what he describes as “the best job in Spokane.” The ability to make a difference goes beyond anything he experienced, early in his career, in a traditional school.

And make a difference he does. Former students send him thank you notes, expressing appreciation with words such as, “I finally have a plan for my life” and “you are an exact model of what I strive to become.”

In recent mid-term reflection papers, 22 of 25 students praised Fuller’s support, describing him with superlatives such as “amazing,” “passionate” and “optimistic.”

Indeed. Ask a generation of former JDC students what caused them to turn their lives around. They’ll say it began with the encouragement and support of teachers who believed in them – teachers like Dan Fuller who believe education is the key to success and change.

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**The faces of Focus**

For the last dozen years, Deb Ramsay and Steve Witter have been the editors of this newsletter. Ramsay handles design; Witter, the content.

In more recent years, they also have assisted multiple districts – including Cheney, Colfax, East Valley, Liberty, Rosalia and Tekoa – in the production of their local newsletters, levy fact sheets and other specialty publications.

All products are custom designed, providing text, photos, colors and logos tailored to district specifications.

Both are members of the superintendent’s Cabinet who hold at least 20 years of ESD experience and both honed their skills in the communications industry before launching their educational careers.

Both also perform other major functions when not handling their public relations duties. Ramsay directs the agency’s educational technology program, including IT/network services, K-20 video/data networking and instructional technology cooperative.

Witter oversees grants management, seeking federal, state and private funding for regional PK-12 initiatives.

Have an idea for a future story in this newsletter? Or need a hand producing a high-quality district publication? Help is just one call or e-mail away. Contact Deb or Steve at (509) 789-3800; dramsay@esd101.net; switter@esd101.net.
The 2017 High School Art Show is just around the corner. Entries may be submitted to NEWESD 101 between February 6-17, 2017. All submissions will be on public display at NEWESD 101 between February 27-March 24, with an awards reception scheduled March 14 at 4 p.m. in the Regal Conference Center. The show, now entering its 44th year, typically draws more than 150 entries from students in regional schools. Entries are evaluated by professional judges assessing creativity, composition and technique.

For specific timelines, instructions and registration, please visit www.goo.gl/LuioZp.

The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice recently presented its “Spirit of Youth” award to a NEWESD 101 alumnus. Allen Hacking received the honor in a ceremony at the state Capitol in Olympia. Hacking first came to NEWESD 101 through the Structured Alternative Confinement (SAC) School and then progressed to the YouthBuild Spokane pre-apprenticeship program.

He earned his GED, co-enrolled in AmeriCorps and contributed more than 1,200 volunteer hours, building and remodeling low-income housing. As he grew, he became a positive role model for younger students. He is now employed in construction and setting his sights on higher education. Congratulations, Allen. We are proud of you.

Riverside: Engines hum and tech careers grow

A long retired high school “shop” teacher would not recognize the high-tech magic taking place in most of today’s modern schools. Walk into David Howard’s working classroom at Riverside High School (Riverside School District) and the view might be even more jaw-dropping.

Howard, the school’s Career and Technical Education instructor and Skills USA adviser, is serious indeed about school-to-career connections. The evidence is found in the courses he teaches:

Carbon Fiber Composites; Power Sports; Power Mechanics and (still as useful and necessary as ever) Welding.

Howard’s workspace resembles an industrial production center in which students practice the skills employers want.

Donations from industrial sponsors – including Harley-Davidson, Honda, Stihl, Briggs and Stratton, Echo Power Equipment, Kioti Tractor and Yamaha Marine – allow students to assemble, disassemble, test and measure everything from motorcycles to lawn mower engines; light diesel drives to marine propulsion systems.

Studies are geared to national certification in the power equipment industry; Howard is one of Eastern Washington’s only approved proctors for Engine Equipment Training Council certification exams.

Then there is the carbon fiber class, a new addition to this year’s curriculum. While carbon fiber is most commonly associated with the aerospace industry, it is a form of manufacturing that is also important to the medical, automobile and sporting goods industries.

Knowledge of carbon fiber fabrication is golden in today’s economy. Firms specializing in the design, analysis, prototyping and manufacturing of carbon fiber composites covet every qualified graduate they can find. In a Seattle-area high school offering a similar program, Boeing offered jobs to 36 of 36 graduates in the 2016 class.

Brock Zoyer is two years from high school graduation, but already showcasing the Riverside magic.

Last year, as only a freshman, Zoyer traveled to Tacoma and won a state championship in the high school Power Equipment Technology competition – an exhaustive knowledge and skills competition judged by industry professionals.

Zoyer is not alone in reaching high. All of Howard’s students receive a comprehensive, workplace-relevant education, coupled with a heavy emphasis on soft skills (show up on time, follow instructions, meet deadlines) that positions them well for next steps in their education and careers.

Depending on the task, Howard’s classroom has been known to produce its share of noise. Noise is good. Noise is the sound of engines humming on all cylinders in more ways than one.

Student earns state accolades

The Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice recently presented its “Spirit of Youth” award to a NEWESD 101 alumnus. Allen Hacking received the honor in a ceremony at the state Capitol in Olympia.

The award recognizes young adults who have made great strides following involvement with the juvenile justice system and are now making significant contributions to society.

Hacking first came to NEWESD 101 through the Structured Alternative Confinement (SAC) School and then progressed to the YouthBuild Spokane pre-apprenticeship program.

He earned his GED, co-enrolled in AmeriCorps and contributed more than 1,200 volunteer hours, building and remodeling low-income housing. As he grew, he became a positive role model for younger students. He is now employed in construction and setting his sights on higher education. Congratulations, Allen. We are proud of you.

Get ready for Art Show 2017

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C4K … an obscure Star Wars character you can’t remember? A relative of R2-D2 or C-3PO? Or perhaps the star of a future installment in the long-running Star Wars franchise? No to all.

C4K is not a robot, a drone, a person or any kind of Star Wars character. It’s an acronym for one of the state’s most successful and enduring educational technology programs – Computers 4 Kids.

Since the program’s inception, nearly 100,000 computers have found new life in the classroom. Most surplus computers are refurbished at the Airway Heights Corrections Center near Spokane, although some lease-return computers go directly to qualified districts.

Schools pay a nominal fee, never exceeding $27 per computer. For that amount, the school receives, at minimum, an Intel-based dual core (or higher) desktop with keyboard and mouse, 4GB of RAM, an 80 GB hard drive, CD-ROM, USB ports and a 15-inch or larger LCD flat-panel screen.

More than half the districts in the NEWESD 101 region have participated in the program since it began.

“The Davenport School District has benefited greatly over several years from our participation,” says Superintendent Jim Kowalkowski. “It has helped us update our technology equipment and saved us thousands of dollars.”

The East Valley School District has experienced similar results, albeit on a much larger scale. “Computers 4 Kids has been a huge success at East Valley, providing a highly economical way to keep our technology current,” says Neale Rasmussen, director of Fiscal Services.

“We would not have been able to maintain our staff and student technology without the program. In the last 3 1/2 years, we’ve received 1,629 like-new computers that have saved us an estimated $900,000 over the cost of buying new. If we turn over the inventory every three years, our cost pencils out to less than 75 cents a month for each device.”

Calculated another way, one computer equals the price of two theater tickets to Star Wars. Any way you cut it, the price is right.

For more information on Computers 4 Kids, contact Shelly Johnson at (509) 323-2727 or sjohnson@esd101.net.
At the end of the current school year, two giants of education in our state will retire from long and distinguished careers. These two leaders will leave behind a legacy of true excellence, and an incredibly positive and enduring impact on countless educators and other leaders with whom their careers, and their examples, have intersected.

Combined, they have almost 95 years of experience, and I, along with so many others, am forever richer for their positive influence on me, our profession, fellow professionals and, most importantly, the students we serve. At a moment in our nation’s history where examples of real and dignified leadership can be hard to find, these two are shining lights. And each spent parts of their incredible careers in our region.

Dr. Gay Selby
spent the first 30 years of her 53-year career in K-12 – teacher, athletic director, high school principal (Pullman), assistant superintendent (Spokane), and was ultimately the outstanding superintendent of the Kelso School District. Two years before “retiring,” she became one of WSU/Vancouver’s first professors, a leadership role she has held for a quarter of a century now, preparing and mentoring countless successful principals and superintendents throughout our state.

Dr. Rich McBride
will leave his position as superintendent of North Central ESD in Wenatchee come June, concluding 40 years of incredible service to education in our state. He, too, began as a teacher, was a principal, and served as superintendent in Harrington, Newport and East Valley (Yakima) before his long tenure as NCESD superintendent. Like Dr. Selby, his impact hasn’t been confined to the districts in which he worked or the large region he has served, but has been statewide and, indeed, nationwide.

Gay and Rich have led, and served, with constant dignity, integrity, principles, and with an understanding that how people are treated or talked about, matters. Maya Angelou noted that, “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” She could easily have been referring to these two leaders.

Neither ever felt the need to demean others to make themselves feel good or look better. In fact, they have always lifted others up. Neither chose to “shoot from the hip,” but rather pride themselves on genuine preparation and on respectful, explicit and accurate communication.

They never vilified others who may have disagreed with them. Rather, both were good listeners, driven to learn from both those who agree with them and any who may not. They respect the United States and Washington State constitutions, and have strived to respect and live up to both the freedoms and responsibilities outlined in each.

When they hired people, as leaders must, they sought those who possessed genuine knowledge of and experience with the job to be filled. They did not reward friends but rather sought and supported those truly qualified. As technology and, more recently, social media, became constants in our profession and society, they modeled appropriate and professional use of such tools. Each of these two have been inclusive leaders, accepting and treasuring diversity and disparate viewpoints.

In a profession that needs REAL leadership, in a society that needs leaders with GENUINE integrity and wisdom, and through the divisive issues that occurred during their respective tenures, Drs. Selby and McBride have been such leaders and have fostered common ground, cooperation and collaboration.

I am deeply grateful, and I know that the students in our state, the adults who serve them, and education in whole are so much better for the presence of two incredible people who are not “so-called” leaders, but rather true leaders whose thoughts, actions and examples are needed still, perhaps now more than ever. How lucky we are to be part of the same profession as people like Gay Selby and Rich McBride.

Michael Dunn, Superintendent
The founders

Eighteen and counting.

That’s the number of years Washington has operated the School Nurse Corps (SNC), providing nursing access to every public school in the state. From the beginning, ESDs have been central to the program’s success, funding and coordinating services within their designated geographic regions.

The program at NEWESD 101 has been a model of consistency and service, extending coverage to districts that did not have it before and better coverage to those that did.

The keys to consistency and success? Ask Mick Miller, NEWESD 101’s assistant superintendent for Student Learning and Support Services, and he’ll tell you it begins with steady, committed and visionary program leaders.

Meet the founders … Julie Schultz and Alma McNamee, the first two School Nurse Corps employees hired by NEWESD 101 in 1999-2000 and the same two who guide the ship today.

Schultz, the program director, and McNamee, the registered nurse team leader, coordinate the training and allocation of resources for 30 registered nurses serving 19,000 students in 51 small, rural, Class II school districts in the NEWESD 101 region. They provide the critical infrastructure to ensure access to registered nursing services for all students and staff in these districts.

They also are a resource to all 59 regional districts, providing consultation, technical assistance, professional development, mentoring of new nurses, assistance with the development of care and medication plans and working on-call to advise on special issues (roughly 2,400 times per year) as they arise.

It’s a demanding job and one that has grown in complexity as school nurses deal with more health issues – and more complicated, even life-threatening health issues – than they saw even a decade ago. But, between their 62 years of combined nursing experience in hospital, community and school settings, no task is too great.

No matter the day, time, or challenge, the founders stand ready.

The financial X-factor

Even in an agency where it is customary to wear more than one hat, DeAnn Wagoner holds a distinction that is extremely rare. In her 11 years in education, she has worn the hats of two ESDs – ESD 105 in Yakima for seven years; NEWESD 101, for the last four.

And then there is the evolution of her role at NEWESD 101, where she began as a state reports and systems technician in Data Processing. There, she was the popular figure who printed paychecks, among other duties, for staff in more than 60 districts.

Today, her time is split between two functions. In the first, she assists districts with fiscal and human resources processes from enrollment to budgeting and statewide reporting.

In her second role, the versatile Toppenish native serves as the contract business manager for the Oakesdale School District (NEWESD 101 provides business management services for 17 local districts), providing on-site service one day a week at the Whitman County district.

The two assignments bring variety to her work – while also putting to use a pair of newly minted professional certificates from the Washington Association of School Business Officials. Wagoner recently completed two tracks – accounting and payroll – earning her credentials as a certified school business specialist.

“Each year DeAnn has worked at NEWESD 101 we have given her new challenges, and each year she keeps exceeding our expectations,” says Cory Plager, director of School Financial Services. “She is one of those employees with the ‘x-factor’ – going above and beyond to support our schools and department.”

Congratulations, DeAnn. Congratulations, Oakesdale.

Retirement seminar • April 29 at WVHS

Looking for ways to protect yourself in retirement and maximize your benefits? If yes, circle Saturday, April 29 on your calendar.

On that day, the Spokane Area Retired Educators’ Association will host a conference for all current and former school employees at West Valley High School, 8301 E. Buckeye. The event will feature speakers from the state Department of Retirement Systems and Health Care Authority, plus additional presentations on financial planning, insurance and issues relevant to retirees.

To pre-register: http://www.spokanerea.org/PreregistrationForm.html. For more information, contact Les or Pam Francis at (509) 926-5021 or lfrancis@whitworth.edu.
NEWED 101 expands computer science opportunities

NEWED 101’s computer science opportunities are rapidly expanding. Professional development is available for K-5, middle school and high school teachers in computer science. In conjunction with Code.org, teachers are trained to teach Computer Science Fundamentals, Computer Science in Algebra, Computer Science in Science, and Computer Science Discoveries. We are currently recruiting teachers who want to teach Computer Science Discoveries at the middle school or Computer Science Principles at the high school. Trainings vary from strategy implementation to entire computer science courses that can be offered at your school.

Watch the NEWED 101 Events Calendar for these exciting opportunities:

- Computer Science Fundamentals for K-5 teachers who want to integrate computer science into their curriculum.
- Computer Science Discoveries for teachers who want to train this summer to teach a class next year at the middle school level.
- Computer Science Principles for high school teachers who will teach the course next year. This one week training will be held locally.
- MakerSpace training is being scheduled for summer and fall.
- Gamification professional development is being offered this summer and fall.
- Sphero workshop aligning NGSS with computer science will be offered in the spring and early summer.

For more information, please contact Tammie Schrader, regional computer science coordinator, at (509) 323-2725 or tschrader@esd101.net.

College Spark Washington funds gamification

Teachers at West Valley’s Centennial Middle School and Riverside Middle School are exploring new, innovative ways of engaging students. College Spark Washington has funded a three-year project to embed gamification strategies in curriculum to increase the schools’ student engagement and classroom success.

Gamification is a relatively new approach to education. Early research indicates it can be a powerful tool for engaging students in ways traditional teaching methods may not. Capitalizing on student interest in games and technology, teachers learn strategies and techniques to gamify aspects of the curriculum.

While gamification itself can take many forms, teachers learn technology based strategies that are both “plugged” and “unplugged” to engage students.

In addition to employing myriad teaching strategies, the project supports the districts’ efforts to formalize student data analysis protocols for early identification of at-risk students. Pairing increased student engagement with data analysis, the partners aim to increase academic success, decrease behavioral referrals and increase attendance rates.

Brian Hickman, a teacher at Centennial Middle School, is excited by the opportunity to engage students through technology and gamification. Reflecting on statewide career outlook data, Hickman sees the benefit beyond student engagement, noting, “Washington kids need these (computer science) skills. We need to prepare them earlier.”

The project is in the early stages and will continue through 2019. For more information, please contact NEWED 101’s Dianna Harrington at (509) 789-3605 or dharrington@esd101.net.

Claimed all your clock hours?

Caught up on clock hours? Ready to renew your certificate? Avoid the rush. Claim your hours now.

For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/newesdclockhours or contact NEWED 101 Clock Hours Registrar Mary Kempel at (509) 323-2786 or mkempel@esd101.net.

NEWED 101 • Focus on Education • Spring 2017
Thinking outside the box

The West Valley School District had a dilemma. The state had funded a K-3 class size reduction initiative and the district was eager to jump on board.

There was just one problem. The district’s four elementary schools were largely full. The will was there; the extra classroom space was not. Yes, that was the dilemma a little over a year ago and the options seemed rather limited.

Until … conversation with staff, parents and other constituents produced a long-term, big-picture view of facility needs that ultimately recommended a “back to the future” solution.

Free classroom space was available – it just wasn’t in the neighborhood schools. It was available in the old Millwood School, then operating as the district’s Early Learning Center.

Repurposing Millwood as a district-wide Kindergarten Center would free up two or three classrooms in every elementary school, while simultaneously providing the kindergartners their own school, dedicated just to them.

The concept had worked before in West Valley, roughly 15 years ago, during a similar period of high enrollment and tight space.

This time, however, the transition would be more complex because the Kindergarten Center would displace the district’s Early Learning Center (providing pre-school programs for 3-4 year olds).

Again, the district thought outside the box. After extensive research, the district reached agreement to house its youngest students in the then-vacant St. Paschal’s School, conveniently located on Park Road.

Two problems. Two solutions.

With both facilities approaching the end of their first year of operation, the reviews have been overwhelmingly positive.

“We are very excited about how quickly the staff at Millwood embraced the new challenge,” says West Valley Superintendent Dr. Gene Sementi. “The entire staff was very understanding and supportive throughout the summer during a major remodel, with a few teachers not getting access to their classrooms until the day before school started.

“The staff has built on that enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year and created an outstanding learning environment for our early learners.”

Similar sentiments are expressed at the building level. “Parents tell us it has been a great experience for their kids because everything we do is tailored to kindergartners,” says Millwood Principal Lisa Skay.

At the Kindergarten Center, the school’s 187 students enjoy modern classrooms, a gymnasium, food service and all the amenities of a traditional elementary school. And let’s not forget smaller class sizes. At Millwood, the average is 17 students per class, down from 20 the year before.

Sometimes, a trip to the past provides the best pathway to the future.
Dr. Livingston(e), I presume?

Students of history are familiar with the oft-repeated phrase - *Dr. Livingstone, I presume?* – uttered by Henry Morton Stanley when he met David Livingstone, a medical missionary and explorer, in 1871.

Back in 1993, I became one of many fortunate educators in our region to meet our own Dr. Livingston (no “e”) – **Dr. Gary Livingston.**

Beginning then and for the next eight years, Dr. Livingston led the Spokane Public Schools as its incredible superintendent, in the process not only providing visionary and effective leadership for his district, but indeed for public education generally across our region and the entire state.

Gary left SPS in 2001 to lead the Capital Region ESD, and a year later – fortunately for our region – he returned to Spokane and served as the Chancellor of the Community Colleges of Spokane for over a decade.

Among the many joys of working in our profession for the past 38 years, I have been fortunate to work with, for, and to learn from countless outstanding fellow educators. Dr. Gary Livingston is, without question, one of the finest leaders and human beings to ever serve education.

I have known that for almost 25 years, yet at this moment in history I am reflecting on why he was such a superb leader whose impact was genuine and sustains still.

When he became Spokane’s superintendent, Dr. Livingston came to the role with both successful experience, and expertise, as a superintendent (having served the Topeka, KS Public Schools in the same capacity). And of course, his prior experience in other education roles, including teacher, informed his understanding of his role as the district’s leader. Experience and expertise. **Both matter.**

He sought and valued relevant experience and expertise in others; surrounded himself with those most qualified and effective; and he listened to them, empowered them, as he also held all to high standards of accountability. He expected them to be honest, informed and prepared – and those same expectations for himself were even higher.

Dr. Livingston was not a “seat of his pants” leader; rather, a considered and thoughtful leader who eschewed willy-nilly decisions in favor of both near- and long-term, strategic decision-making. Understanding by Design, or “beginning with an end in mind,” weren’t foreign concepts for Gary.

Dr. Livingston did not flip-flop in his approach, decisions and certainly not in the clarity or eloquence of his communication. A leader who met with the faculty and staff of each school in the district twice each year (with over 50 schools, *that* in itself was no mean feat), the direction of the district was consistent and illuminated for all.

A fellow principal once reminded to me, “you know, I don’t think Dr. Livingston is as smart as many seem to think.” When I inquired how in the world she or he felt that way, the person said, “well, he gives the same message everywhere he goes.” **Exactly.** There was no inconsistency, no playing to an audience. There was a uniform message and his unwavering intent was that **everyone** in the district be engaged in the well-articulated mission of how we would best serve all students.

While Dr. Livingston was (and remains today) a very strong leader, he was inclusive and collaborative – not only within his district, but across the region and state. He held others in sincere regard and high respect, caring not that they worked elsewhere or in smaller districts. **He engaged. He was visible and involved.**

He freely gave more than he got. Little wonder that he became the WASA president; that CCS knew he would be a great chancellor; or that organizations across the region, including what became GSI, wanted Gary Livingston to be involved to assure quality outcomes are achieved.

*Dr. Livingston, I presume?* In Gary Livingston, this phrase took on new meaning. Our profession, indeed our nation, genuinely needs and deserves leaders of **his** remarkable and trustworthy caliber. All of us who worked with and for him, are forever better for that blessing. For the type of **real** leadership we need.

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.

**Summer 2017**

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NEWESD 101 snapshots

**Dr. Trina Clayeux**

Every day on the job, Dr. Trina Clayeux talks to students about the importance of stretching themselves … setting a goal, facing their fears and doing what’s hard.

Indeed, as NEWESD 101’s director of Future Pathways, it’s Clayeux’s job to mentor, inspire and challenge students. Set the bar high, stick to it and success will follow, she says.

She knows of what she speaks. Clayeux leads by example, continually challenging herself to do things she didn’t think she could do. Take athletics, for instance. Every year for the last 20, Clayeux has set a personal goal of learning a new sport or taking on a new athletic challenge.

Mountain biking, weightlifting, volleyball, you name it. She’s tried them all. She competes with herself; competing for personal satisfaction. The goal is not to win trophies, but to take on a new challenge – and finish.

Along the way, that’s meant facing her own fears. Believe it or not, says the Coeur d’Alene native, she grew up in lake country, but never learned to swim. She feared the water. So, being the goal setter she is, it naturally followed that she would eventually push herself by entering triathlon and Ironman competitions requiring her to swim.

Goal accomplished. She took swimming lessons as an adult and successfully competed (though she jokes that she still dislikes the water).

If you think you can, you can. That old saying and variations of it are attributed to numerous authors who believed success was a state of mind. They were right. Trina Clayeux is the living proof.

**Mary Kempel**

Changing jobs and moving to a new city. Not much fun, most would say.

Not Mary Kempel. Coming off a nearly 20-year career at ESD 105 in Yakima, NEWESD 101’s clock hours registrar was already well versed on the work and mission of ESDs when she relocated to Spokane last year.

“Mary took on one of the toughest, most complex jobs in our agency and handled it with mastery,” says Assistant Superintendent Mick Miller. “As clock hours registrar, she is responsible for tracking up to 600 courses and 2,000 applicants submitting more than 3,000 claims per year. With files active for seven years, her database is staggering.”

The workload can be similarly formidable, particularly in the spring, ahead of certification renewal in June.

While clock hours are often viewed in the past tense – claiming credit for prior work – Kempel’s view is firmly focused on the future. She has been the driving force behind expansion of the online clock hours system, utilizing new features that will debut this fall (see related story below).

Co-workers give her a good-natured ribbing when she occasionally slips, referring to ESD 105 as “we.” That’s OK. “We” at NEWESD 101 are now glad to have her on our team. And we thank ESD 105 for sending us a gem.

What’s new in clock hours for 2017-18?

Starting September 1, 2017, clock hours earned through NEWESD 101 will be available to purchase online through the agency’s GoSignMeUp (GSMU) registration system.

Clock hours earned on or before August 31, 2017 will need to be purchased through the current method of hard copy registration form and payment.

Expansion of the online system will not only provide speed and convenience, but also allow individuals to track their professional development and clock hours records. You also will be able to print transcripts of clock hours earned after September 1 from your personal profile. This can only work, however, if you sign in at all of your professional development activities, even if you do not intend to claim clock hours.

Take a moment to check your profile data:

Click Login, upper right corner, and enter username, password and click “student.”

Edit your profile by clicking the pencil icon to the right of Account Information.

When your data is updated, select the save icon in the same location.

For more information or assistance, contact registrar Mary Kempel at (509) 323-2786 or mkempel@esd101.net. Also visit our clock hours webpage at www.esd101.net/Page/220.
Around the area

Upcoming PD

**NEWESD summer workshop**

Join us August 15 at West Valley High School for a one day workshop, “All means All: Until Learning Has No Limits.” Keynoting will be Katie Novak, an expert in Universal Design for Learning (UDL). To register: https://esd101.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse. Information: Linda Smith, (509) 789-3538; lsmith@esd101.net.

**OSPI / ESD training**


Full-Day Kindergarten: Three modules have been developed for teachers to create developmentally appropriate and academically rigorous classrooms. Training is June 29-30.

*To register for either class:* https://esd101.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse. Information: Anne Knott, (509) 456-7086; aknott@esd101.net.

**WaKI DS intro training**

Required introductory training for untrained, state funded full-day kindergarten teachers begins this summer.

Participants may choose one of these two-day training sessions: July 17-18; July 19-20; August 1-2; or September 19-20. To register: https://esd101.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse. Information: Anne Knott, (509) 456-7086; aknott@esd101.net.

**Starting Strong**

Starting Strong, one of the state’s premiere education conferences, returns to Spokane August 7-9 at the Hotel RL by Red Lion. The institute aims to build connections between early learning and K-12 professionals, with a primary focus on P-3. For more information and registration: http://www.startingstrong.net.

**Classified Employee of the Year**

**Rhonda Christian a multi-dimensional performer**

Like many in education, Rhonda Christian’s official title – library/media specialist – only scratches the surface of what she does at Jenkins Junior/Senior High School in Chewelah.

Officially, her job is about numbers: Manage a library collection of 15,000 individual items, plus digital/electronic resources, for 420 students conducting research.

Then there is the “other duties as assigned” category. For Christian, it is an extensive list.

She directs the Link Crew, co-chairs the Renaissance program, manages the Student of the Month award, tutors in the after-school program, heads up the school blood drive, organizes fund-raisers, runs the score clock at football games and even makes the popcorn at Jenkins basketball games (reportedly the best-tasting ‘corn in the Northeast A League; visiting teams agree).

So, if library/media specialist doesn’t really convey the full breadth of her job, what should we call such a talented, multi-dimensional performer?

How about regional Classified Employee of the Year?

Christian was awarded that title in March following a regional competition open to every full-time classified employee in the seven-county NEWESD 101 region.

Friends and colleagues agree it is a well-deserved honor. Jenkins Principal Shawn Anderson says he is particularly grateful for Christian’s work with the Renaissance Program, recognizing students for academic success and improvement.

Students achieving a 3.0 grade point average or .5 GPA improvement are formally recognized by the school and awarded gifts from local merchants (of course, arranged by Christian).

More than an academic mentor, she also is a living example of what is possible when a determined person sets his/her mind to a lofty goal. While Christian is a college graduate, she was not a traditional student who started at 18 and graduated four years later.

Rather, she went back to school as an adult, earning an online degree from Ashford University in Iowa. It was a hard road, working full-time and studying at night. But, in the end, it was a satisfying journey leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

You can do it too, she tells students. Whether the goal is a two-year or four-year degree, trade school or industry certification, perseverance is the key to success.

Christian’s ties to community run deep. She is a Jenkins graduate who returned to the district fold as a paraprofessional at Gess Elementary in 1995. Five years later, she moved to her current position at the high school.

Colleagues and students at both schools have long called her a difference-maker who inspires and motivates all around her. Her high energy and enthusiasm are indeed contagious.

Now she also can be called the 2017 Classified Employee of the Year. The title fits her well.