



News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association
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For Immediate Release.

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WSSDA Names Garchow as Next Executive Director

The Washington State School Directors' Association Board of Directors today named Rainier School District Superintendent Timothy Garchow as its next executive director. Garchow will begin his new job at the start of August, when current Executive Director Alan Burke, plans to retire.

The 16-member WSSDA board unanimously chose Garchow Saturday after a series of interviews with three finalists. He will become the association's eighth executive director in its 60-year history as a state agency.

"We are thrilled that Tim has agreed to help lead our association," said WSSDA President Christopher Nation. "He is a creative and energetic educator who knows the Washington's K-12 system inside and out. He is smart, driven and a strong champion of our public schools. We are excited about what the future holds for WSSDA and the benefit to our 1,477 school board members."

Garchow has been superintendent of the Rainier School District in Thurston County for the past six years. Before that he was the superintendent (2006-2010) and principal (2004-2006) of the Southside School District in Mason County. He began his career teaching special education, sixth grade and science in the Peninsula and Sumner school districts.

"I am truly honored to be selected for this position," said Garchow. "It is an opportunity to support the efforts of our state's school directors as they continue working together to make Washington's public education system a place where each child succeeds."

He sits on a number of boards and committees devoted to education issues, including among others, the ESD 113 Executive Advisory Committee, the New Market Skills Center Executive Committee and the State School Safety Advisory Committee, of which he is chair.

Garchow holds a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a M.E. from City University of Seattle. He also received his superintendent certification from Washington State University.

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About WSSDA — Founded in 1922, the Washington State School Directors' Association is comprised of all 1,477 school board members from Washington's 295 school districts. The districts they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of about \$10 billion, and employ more than 160,000 people. WSSDA's core mission is focused on ensuring that school board members have the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and improve student learning.