



#####  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 21, 2015  
#####

### **Exemplary High School Seniors Recognized with Washington Scholars Award**

**OLYMPIA** – The Washington Student Achievement Council and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) announced the names of 654 high school seniors from 263 high schools this year as Washington Scholars, recognized as such for their outstanding accomplishments. The Washington Scholars recognition award represents the highest academic honor conferred by the State of Washington and is awarded to students who demonstrate the educational excellence and civic commitment so vital to the future of our state.

“Washington Scholars highlights the incredible talent of our young leaders. In the future, these students will be solving problems that don’t exist today. They deserve this incredible recognition for combining scholastic achievement with leadership and a commitment to serving the community,” said Gary Kipp, Executive Director of the Association of Washington School Principals.

Historically, designation has been limited to three Scholars and one alternate in each of the state’s 49 legislative districts. This year, recognition has been extended to all eligible students nominated by their high school principals. You can find your district’s Washington Scholars on the Council’s [website](#).

The Student Achievement Council and AWSP collaboratively lead the process of selecting Washington Scholars. High school principals nominate candidates based on their cumulative grade point average and SAT/ACT scores, as well as leadership, community service, and other activities.

“Washington Scholars demonstrate exceptional academic performance, holding themselves accountable to rigorous standards. This award recognizes the foundational roles of effort and discipline in student success,” said Student Achievement Council Executive Director Gene Sharratt.

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

#####

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

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us online at [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov), on Twitter @WSACouncil, and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WSACouncil](http://www.facebook.com/WSACouncil).

Contact:

Emily Persky ([media@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:media@wsac.wa.gov))  
Communications Program Manager  
360.753.7817

#####

**About the Association of Washington School Principals:** The Association of Washington School Principals is a professional association serving principals, assistant principals and principals in training. Formed in 1972, the association now includes more than 3,400 members from public and private elementary, middle and high schools statewide. It is governed by a board of practicing principals drawn from three grade-specific boards representing the elementary, middle and high school levels. For more information, visit us at [www.awsp.org](http://www.awsp.org), follow us on Twitter @AWSP\_Principals, or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AWSP.Principals](http://www.facebook.com/AWSP.Principals).

Contact:

David Morrill ([david@awsp.org](mailto:david@awsp.org))  
Public Relations and Digital Media Manager  
360.357.7951