



## NEWS RELEASE

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# 2011 Superintendent of the Year

## *Renton Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel receives state's top honor*

November 19, 2010—Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel has been named Washington's 2011 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The announcement was made today in Spokane at the association's annual superintendent's meeting.

Dr. Heuschel was selected for the honor by WASA's 1,600-members because of her commitment to education for all students, her steadfast passion for children and her organizational and inspirational leadership in the district and among leaders throughout the state of Washington

She will represent Washington in the National Superintendent of the Year Program in February, at the organization's national conference in Denver, Colorado.

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—Renton Schools Superintendent  
Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel

"I am immensely grateful and humbled that my colleagues would honor me with such wonderful award," Heuschel said. "But, I know that being named Superintendent of the Year is less about me and more a direct reflection of the hard work by the teachers and support staff, and the commitment of parents and students in the Renton School District."

Dr. Heuschel has been superintendent in Renton since 2006. Under her leadership, high school graduation rates have increased to 93 percent and her focus on closing the ethnicity achievement gap is realizing incredible results. Heuschel's guidance has created a culture to strengthen districtwide leadership to provide systematic responsiveness to the diverse needs of students and staff that leads to increased student achievement.

"What a wonderful honor for Superintendent Heuschel and all of the Renton School District," said Renton School Board president Lynn Desmarais. "We are very proud of Mary Alice and what we're accomplishing under her leadership. This is a fantastic recognition of the work being accomplished by our staff, students, parents and community."

"Schools want leaders who are ethical, who foster a sense of hope, and who exhibit optimism," said Gene Sharratt, director of the Washington State University Superintendent Certification program has worked with Dr. Heuschel for two decades. "This kind of confidence influences others. It generates the energy and commitment necessary to achieve results. Mary Alice exemplifies a leader of character, of hope, and of personal responsibility"

Heuschel received her doctorate and superintendent certification from Seattle Pacific University in 2004. She has been an administrator since 1993 when she became a principal in the Yelm School District. In 1999 she became an assistant superintendent for the state's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and went on to become a deputy superintendent from 2000 to 2006 when she left to begin her tenure in Renton.

Heuschel serves on the board for the Washington Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Center, and Education Northwest. She serves on the Washington State Special Education Advisory Committee, Seattle University and Seattle Pacific University Professional Education Advisory Boards, Washington State Leadership Academy, Renton Rotary, Renton Chamber of Commerce, Renton Community Foundation, City of Renton Leadership Marketing Partnership, Community in Schools of Renton (CISR) and is active with the Washington Association of School Administrators. She has published numerous articles on education, and she serves as an adjunct professor at Seattle University and a guest instructor at Seattle Pacific University.

The Washington Association of School Administrators is a not-for-profit organization, member-funded association, committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership.