



NEWS RELEASE

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SPS Administrator Honored by WA Educational Organization

Mike Starosky receives award from WASA

SEATTLE – Seattle Public Schools is pleased to announce that Dr. Mike Starosky, SPS Executive Director of Schools, has been awarded the D.A. Davidson Barbara Mertens Legacy Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA).

The honor was presented earlier this month to Dr. Starosky during the 41st annual Summer Conference of WASA and the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

According to WASA Executive Director Joel Aune, the award is presented to “an individual or group who has had a significant impact on public education in Washington – a legacy that has a lasting influence.”

“I’m honored to have been recognized by my peers and I truly appreciate receiving the award,” said Dr. Starosky, who has worked at SPS since 1994. “Of course, the recognition is very nice, but the most important part of my work – and of all of us who work in education -- is doing everything we can to positively impact students.”

The nomination for the award, which was submitted to WASA’s review committee, included focus on “Lead Up,” which was part of Dr. Starosky’s doctoral research at the University of Washington.

“Dr. Starosky founded and leads Seattle Public Schools' leadership development and support program, Lead Up, which recruits, selects, and retains school leaders,” the nomination read. “Under Dr. Starosky's leadership the last five years, the Lead Up department has hired nearly 50% Leaders of Color.”

The WASA-AWSP Summer Conference, themed “Junetastic,” was attended virtually by nearly 600 school superintendents, central office administrators, and principals from across Washington. Presenters focused on three leadership themes: Instructional Practice; Social Emotional Learning for Staff and Students; and Equity.

As part of the award, Dr. Starosky received a gift of \$1,000, which he is donating to students in the doctoral Leadership for Learning program at UW.

For more information about WASA and other award recipients honored at the Summer Conference, see the WASA website at <https://www.wasa-oly.org/>.

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