



# News Release

*Washington State School Directors' Association*  
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**For Immediate Release.**

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## **WSSDA Board narrows the field to three for next executive director**

The Washington State School Directors' Association announced the names of three finalists today to fill the post of WSSDA executive director.

The finalists, chosen by the WSSDA Board of Directors, include Tim Garchow, Linda Quinn and Chris Thomas.

Tim Garchow is superintendent of the Rainier School District in Thurston County, a position that he has held for the past six years. Before that he was the superintendent (2006-2010) and principal (2004-2006) of the Southside School District (Mason County). Tim holds a B.A. from Pacific Lutheran University and a M.E. from City University of Seattle.

Linda Quinn is the superintendent of the Ferndale School District in Whatcom County and has had that position since 2010. Before that she worked in the Puyallup School District for 27 years, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, principal (1982-1989, and 1998-2002), and district office administrator (2002-2007). She has degrees from WSU (B.A. English, 1974), Western Washington University (M.E., 1977) and UW (Ed.D., 2012).

Chris Thomas is the General Counsel/Director of Legal and Policy Services for the Arizona School Boards Association, a position that he has held since 2001. Before that he was a government relations specialist, lobbyist and legislative committee staffer in Phoenix. Thomas is also a former elected school board member. He has a B.A. (Political Science/History-1992) from the University of Arizona and a J.D. from the University of Nebraska in 1995.

The board hopes to choose the successful candidate by early May. The current executive director, Alan Burke, is planning to retire from the association at the end of July.

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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.