

Greetings NAWD Members-

It is with great enthusiasm that we invite you to Spokane, Washington for the National Conference on Student Activities, December 1-3, 2017. Some of you may have been with us in Seattle in 1996—the last time we hosted the NAWD conference. Twenty-one years later we are eager to host again and hope that you will join us in Spokane, our second largest city, which is located near the Idaho border. It's time for a **Leadership Revolution!**

Why Washington?

Washington is home to many revolutionary leaders. Have you heard of...

- Music legends, Kurt Cobain, Bing Crosby, Jimi Hendrix, Ann & Nancy Wilson (Rock band, Heart)
- Microsoft founder, Bill Gates
- Scientist and first female Governor of WA, Dr. Dixy Lee Ray
- Starbucks founder, Howard Schultz
- Martial Arts Master, Bruce Lee
- Author and Spokane tribal member, Sherman Alexie



And, let's not forget **Fay Fuller**. In 1882, at the age of 12, her family moved from New Jersey to Washington. (We were only a territory then—not receiving official statehood until 1889.) Drawn to the views of Mt. Rainier she determined she would someday climb it. She reached the summit in 1890, the first female to conquer Rainier. Given the times she did this in a dress and was the only female on the climbing team. She returned, successful in conquering the Mountain, only to lose her teaching job. (Interpretation—a respectable woman should not climb a mountain with a group of like-minded climbers who happen to be men.) She might have been thinking, it's **time for a revolution!**

Why a Leadership Revolution?

- It's not what you do, it's **why** you do it.
- Build nothing for us, without us.
- Equity.

These are the operating philosophies of the students, advisers and principals that guide the work of our student leadership programs in Washington. With the myriad of challenges schools are called upon to meet, student leaders are critical partners in both defining and implementing the solutions. School staffs need help in insuring the academic and social success of all students. The Leadership Revolution is realizing this truth: student leaders can be the brains, heart and courage of positive change...if we let them!

The Association of Washington Student Leaders (a division of the Association of Washington School Principals) has been providing leadership training in our state for over 60 years. We

serve more than 13,000 students each year with a K-12 leadership program. We have grown over the years in our understanding of how we can best train students to lead their schools and communities. Here are some of the questions we are asking ourselves. We hope you will join us in December for conversations like these:

- **Disproportionality:** Do the student leaders reflect the social and academic demographics of the students they represent?
- **Tradition:** Do our traditional activities and leadership governance models meet the needs of all students?
- **Service:** How do you train students to lead with a servant's heart?
- **Social Justice:** How can student leaders work at decreasing or eliminating inequity; promoting inclusiveness of diversity; and establishing supportive environments that are supportive of all students in our schools?
- **Trauma:** How can we train student leaders to be the first-responders for the students with high social-emotional needs?
- **Future Educators:** How can our student leadership programs be the catalysts in creating the next generation of great classroom teachers?

We are so excited to have you join us in Spokane. We'll have the traditional NCSA fun, but we hope to also challenge the collective minds gathered to think about our roles in this **Leadership Revolution!** Our entire AWSL Team looks forward to making this a meaningful professional growth experience.

Warm regards,



Susan Fortin, Executive Director
Association of Washington Student Leaders