



## Supported Students Award: A Washington State Recognition Award

Recognizing educator(s) who contribute to providing a school where students have access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified, caring adults.

In addition to improving students' academic performance, research shows that supportive schools also help prevent a host of negative consequences, including isolation, violent behavior, dropping out of school, and suicide. Central to a supportive school are teachers, administrators, and other caring adults who take a personal interest in each student and in the success of each student.

### Vancouver Home Connection, Vancouver Public Schools Steve Lindblom, Principal

Vancouver Home Connection is a Parent Partnered, Alternative Learning Experience in Vancouver Public Schools, that believes that all students must have a school support system that not only advocates for the student, but also for the parents who are critical to the success of the child socially, emotionally, and academically.

The unique origin of this program started 9 years ago through grass roots efforts of VS and parent leaders. From a humble start, the program has flourished and served thousands of students. Critical to the success of the program are the structures that are in place to support students and families. Each student and family is assigned a lead educational consultant who is the manager of the personalized educational plan. The consultant typically has the student in at least one class, but also acts as an academic mentor to the student, and an instructional mentor for the parent. Each month the consultant meets with all his/her families for a group consultation for the purpose of collaboration and training. Each student's progress is reviewed monthly by a team of grade level teachers, and if needed, an intervention plan is created to specifically identify the areas of need and determine strategies and plans for improvement.

VHC believes in providing Help, Hope and Home for all students. Help: Receiving a personalized education; Hope: Realizing dreams, aspirations, and interests; Home: Experiencing a quality education in an encouraging, safe and supportive learning environment. This program is an excellent example of a strong, collaborative partnership between school, parent and student, creating a vibrant learning campus for parents and students which enables a high level of student success.