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Secondary Academy for Success to receive the Engaged Students Award from Washington State ASCD

Olympia, WA May, 2016 – The Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD) has announced that Secondary Academy for Success (SAS) will receive the Engaged Students Award for 2016. The Engaged Students Award is intended to recognize educators who contribute to providing a school where students have access and opportunity for engagement in a variety of learning experiences.

SAS is part of the state and national green school projects partnering with McKinstry Corporation, a local leader in creating energy efficient buildings. McKinstry is involved with SAS staff to provide curricular opportunities for students to learn more about the skills required for the jobs available in the high demand area of sustainable development. SAS also works in tandem with the State Department of Education to implement projects in the school to improve their "green." As a level 4 green school, SAS students go to the local elementary to educate them how they can reduce their carbon footprint in their classroom, at their school and at home.

Civic engagement is a key component in the SAS model, where students must complete 15 hours of civic engagement annually. Students choose projects that will benefit others in the community such as helping with the Northshore Rotary Santa Breakfast, Northshore Senior Center Fall Luncheon, Bothell Fire Department EMS Cert training and knitting hats and scarfs each year for people with cancer, the homeless or disadvantaged students in our community. One of the activities offered during the school day is knitting. 80 student-made hats and scarves were delivered to a teen shelter this past Christmas.

The partnership with McKinstry also provides students with opportunities to explore green jobs and develop skills that meet high demand workforce expectations. McKinstry and Cascadia College provide support with curriculum development, resources, mentors and guest lecturers.

SAS students and staff work in partnership with 21 Acres in Woodinville, which is a working neighborhood farm, to learn more about sustainable organic farming. The students learn crucial employment skills like teamwork and organization while learning more about the environment. They also see the results of their work immediately and enjoy the fruits of their labor by harvesting the SAS Squash Patch garden in the spring and fall.

SAS provides a school music program. Professional musicians teach students how to play instruments, compose, sing and perform live, introducing them to the professional music industry. Grants from the May Foundation, Northshore Schools Foundation along with personal donations provide the necessary financial support. Additional community organizations in partnership with SAS include the Greater Bothell Chamber of Commerce, Woodinville Chamber of Commerce and Northshore Rotary.

Founded in 1956, the Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged.

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