



WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
>> GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION <<
2025



WELCOME

Walla Walla Public Schools'
Graduates of Distinction
program provides an avenue
for recognizing high school
graduates of Walla Walla
Public Schools.



GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION

These outstanding graduates have distinguished themselves in their communities and professions. This award also provides a platform to honor Walla Walla Public Schools staff members who were the most inspirational in their lives.

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KEVIN PRIBILSKY

-Class of 1981

*Community-minded business leader
and dedicated mentor.*

>> Kevin Pribilsky, a proud member of the Walla Walla High School Class of 1981, has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to leadership, service, and community. He has served on numerous local boards, including the ChristianAid Center, St. Mary's Hospital and the Chamber of Commerce. While living in Walla Walla, Kevin was active in the Noon Rotary Club and Pioneer United Methodist Church and also coached youth basketball and baseball when his children were younger.

With over 30 years in the food service industry, Kevin has led multiple organizations through significant growth, innovation, and transformation. His distinguished career includes executive leadership roles at Sysco and Performance Foodservice, where he directed large teams and drove operational success. He currently serves as President of Harbor Foodservice in Seattle.

Earlier in his career, Kevin held positions with Boeing Aerospace and Eli Lilly's Physio-Control division, and he managed his family's business, Bur-Bee Company, through a successful

sale. His achievements have earned him numerous honors, including the Wall Street Journal Award at Pacific Lutheran University and Vendor of the Year by the Illinois Restaurant Association.

Kevin's dedication extends beyond business. He's been a guest lecturer at Portland State University, a board member of Visit Spokane and Big Table, and a generous supporter of charitable efforts aiding those in the hospitality industry. Kevin's principled leadership, mentorship and commitment to his profession and community reflect the values instilled throughout his life.

Kevin's nomination was spearheaded by Scott Krivoshein, Mark Carlile, Mark Thompson and Tim Donaldson.

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**MOST INSPIRATIONAL STAFF MEMBER:**

**BOB VAN DONGE, <<**  
*Prospect Point Teacher*



## LESLIE SESSER

*-Class of 1997*

*Community-focused accounting professional.*

>> Leslie Sesser exemplifies lifelong dedication to service, leadership, and mentorship—values deeply rooted in her Walla Walla upbringing. A Certified Public Accountant and majority shareholder of a women-owned public accounting firm, Leslie leads an assurance practice that serves over 100 nonprofit and affordable housing organizations annually across the Pacific Northwest. Her professional journey includes a decade at Ernst & Young, where she not only audited Fortune 500 clients but also became a nationally recognized instructor, mentor and learning manager.

Beyond her career, Leslie has spent over 20 years volunteering with Shoreline Young Life, organizing weekly youth events, summer camps, and fundraisers. She's served as a treasurer for multiple nonprofit boards and has actively contributed to the Washington Society of CPAs. Her heart for service is evident in her sponsorship of six girls through Compassion International—culminating in a trip to Tanzania and a successful Kilimanjaro climb that raised \$100,000 for clean water projects.

Leslie's commitment to giving back extends to mentoring students through Junior Achievement, DECA, and Beta Alpha Psi, inspiring the next generation of professionals. She embodies the spirit of Walla Walla—humble, community-minded, and driven by purpose. As a Graduate of Distinction, Leslie is a powerful ambassador for Walla Walla Public Schools and a role model for future leaders.

Leslie's nomination was submitted by Lu See Kwik, Kristi Lin, Paul Villanueva and Monette Anderson.

### **MOST INSPIRATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS:**

**LYNNE KUNTZ, <<**  
*Keyboarding Teacher*



## TODD STUBBLEFIELD

-Class of 1991

*A lifelong leader in firefighting,  
education and community service.*

>> Todd Stubblefield exemplifies a life of selfless service, leadership, and dedication to the Walla Walla Valley. A nearly 30-year veteran of the City of Walla Walla Fire Department, Todd has risen through the ranks to Captain, serving in key union leadership roles and contributing statewide through the Washington State Fire Science Education Board and National Fire Academy Peer Review Panel.

Beyond his distinguished firefighting career, Todd has devoted countless volunteer hours to causes that directly benefit the community. He began his public service as a volunteer with Walla Walla County Fire District #4 and Bluewood Ski Patrol, providing emergency aid in both urban and mountain settings.

Todd's passion for youth and education shines through his long-standing commitment to the College Place School District. As a School Board Director since 2009, with a return in 2015, he helped pass five levies and laid groundwork for the 2012 high school bond. He also led the creation of the College Place High School

Booster Club, served as its president, volunteered as a football and wrestling coach, and could often be found serving at the concession stand.

Currently, Todd serves on the Board of Directors for Walla Walla Fair & Frontier Days, overseeing security and rodeo operations. He and his wife, Cheryl, also volunteer year-round to support the Fair Court, traveling across the region with horses and court members.

Todd Stubblefield is a model of service and integrity. His lifelong contributions, both professional and volunteer, make him a truly deserving recipient of the WWPS Graduate of Distinction honor.

Todd's nomination was prepared by John Golden, Jim Fry, Fred (John) Knowles, Bill Jordan and Greg Lybeck.

### MOST INSPIRATIONAL STAFF MEMBERS:

GARY MIRES, <<

*Wa-Hi Teacher and Football Coach*

BOB MAIB, <<

*Wa-Hi Teacher and Football Coach*



## ALISON BILLINGSLEY BRUGGEMAN

*-Class of 2001*

*Community-driven servant leader.*

>> A lifelong Walla Walla resident, Alison Billingsley Bruggeman exemplifies servant leadership and community dedication. From her early days volunteering in the “Buddy Program” as a middle schooler, Alison has poured time, energy, and heart into improving the lives of others—especially children.

Throughout her adult life, she has served as a mentor, coach, Sunday school teacher and Make-A-Wish grantor. She started the Youth Pickleball League because she loves teaching the sport to children. She also co-founded the “Play-for-a-Cause” Pickleball Tournament with friend and mentor Ted Cummings, as a fundraiser to support local nonprofits. Alison’s warmth and leadership shine through her work with children of all abilities, earning the trust of families and uplifting countless young lives.

Professionally, Alison made a major impact as Director of Sales at Columbia Fresh Produce, growing the company’s client base from 2 to over 70 accounts and overseeing national trade show efforts. Currently, she serves as Leasing Coordinator at Meadowbrook Plaza.

Alison also lends her talents to organizations. She has served on the Providence St. Mary Foundation Board, Blue Mountain Community Foundation, and Child Welfare Services Office, among others. Her ability to balance extensive volunteerism with a full family life is a testament to her dedication and character.

Described by friends and family as humble, kind, and selfless, Alison inspires those around her with every thoughtful gesture—from baking treats to teaching life lessons on and off the pickleball court. Her life reflects the true spirit of generosity, service, and community impact.

Alison’s nomination was compiled by Ted Cummings, Judy Holloway, Kristen Pearce and Grace Ogoshi

### **MOST INSPIRATIONAL STAFF MEMBER:**

**RICHELE LOCATI, <<**

*Elementary Teacher*

### **MOST INSPIRATIONAL PERSON:**

**DEANNA BILLINGSLEY, <<**

*Mother*



## GLEN MITCHELL

*-Class of 1964*

*Lifetime advocate for music education and the arts.*

>> Glen Mitchell has dedicated his life to music education and community enrichment through the arts. A celebrated music educator and advocate, Glen served as Director of Music for Walla Walla Public Schools for nearly three decades and helped shape Washington State's music standards and assessments. His leadership and passion have left a lasting legacy across schools, stages, and communities.

A gifted trumpet player, composer, and conductor, Glen helped establish the Walla Walla Community Band in 1989 and currently directs the Mill Creek Jazz Ensemble. He has performed with the Oregon East Symphony, Walla Walla Symphony and numerous theater pit orchestras. He also served as a dedicated church choir director and composed original works for local ensembles.

Throughout his career, Glen taught music in Asotin, Dayton and Auburn, before his successful career in Walla Walla. He co-founded the District Band, Choir, and Orchestra Festivals—now celebrating their 50th year—

and consistently led high-performing groups that earned accolades across the state. His honors include the Dayton Young Educator Award, National Band Association Citation of Excellence, induction into the Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame, and Washington State Music Educator of the Year. His latest contribution is a commissioned piece, Just Sing It!, to be premiered at the 50th Anniversary District Vocal Festival in 2025.

Known for his humility, humor, and deep care for students, Glen has inspired generations—many of whom now teach music themselves. He established scholarships to ensure all students could access private lessons, promoting equity in music education. Glen Mitchell's legacy is one of joy, excellence, and a belief in the power of music to unite and uplift us all.

Glen's nomination was submitted by Denise Hurst, Marybeth Norby, Gary Gemberling and Norbert Rossi.

**MOST INSPIRATIONAL STAFF MEMBER:**

**RUSS LARSEN, <<**  
*Music Teacher*



### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For more information about the  
Graduates of Distinction Program  
(*including the nomination process*)  
please visit our website:

**WWPS.ORG**



# >> GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION << AWARD RECIPIENTS 1999-2025

| AWARD YEAR | RECIPIENT'S NAME | GRAD YEAR |
|------------|------------------|-----------|
|------------|------------------|-----------|

## 1999

|      |                        |      |
|------|------------------------|------|
| 1999 | James F. Aylward ..... | 1946 |
| 1999 | Richard P. Neher ..... | 1949 |
| 1999 | Karen E. Glover .....  | 1968 |
| 1999 | Dr. Eric Johnson ..... | 1968 |
| 1999 | Michael Murr .....     | 1969 |

## 2000

|      |                             |      |
|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 2000 | Gordon S. Riess .....       | 1944 |
| 2000 | Dr. William C. Dement ..... | 1947 |
| 2000 | Wilber Pribilsky .....      | 1951 |
| 2000 | Philip N. Lane, Jr. ....    | 1962 |
| 2000 | Bruce T. Bjerke .....       | 1968 |

## 2001

|      |                                |      |
|------|--------------------------------|------|
| 2001 | Gordon L. Jaynes .....         | 1946 |
| 2001 | Ned Lange .....                | 1952 |
| 2001 | Eugene Blattman .....          | 1954 |
| 2001 | Jeanne Parker Miller .....     | 1969 |
| 2001 | Vickie Anderson-VanZandt ..... | 1972 |

## 2002

|      |                         |      |
|------|-------------------------|------|
| 2002 | Charlotte Wirth .....   | 1944 |
| 2002 | Robert I. Brunton ..... | 1953 |
| 2002 | James K. Hayner .....   | 1968 |

## 2003

|      |                      |      |
|------|----------------------|------|
| 2003 | Gene Frank .....     | 1946 |
| 2003 | Mark Anderson .....  | 1973 |
| 2003 | Irene Gonzales ..... | 1980 |

## 2004

|      |                         |      |
|------|-------------------------|------|
| 2004 | Harold R. Frank .....   | 1941 |
| 2004 | Ned Shafer .....        | 1961 |
| 2004 | Jeffrey Frank Ray ..... | 1978 |

## 2005

|      |                       |      |
|------|-----------------------|------|
| 2005 | Gerwyn A. Jones ..... | 1928 |
|------|-----------------------|------|

| AWARD YEAR | RECIPIENT'S NAME | GRAD YEAR |
|------------|------------------|-----------|
|------------|------------------|-----------|

|      |                                   |      |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|
| 2005 | Dr. George Cole Williams Jr. .... | 1947 |
| 2005 | Michael Maiden .....              | 1968 |

## 2006

|      |                          |      |
|------|--------------------------|------|
| 2006 | Val Jensen .....         | 1947 |
| 2006 | Dr. Stephen Hayner ..... | 1966 |
| 2006 | AnnRene Joseph .....     | 1973 |

## 2007

|      |                           |      |
|------|---------------------------|------|
| 2007 | Dr. Neil V. Follett ..... | 1944 |
| 2007 | Barbara D. Johnson .....  | 1967 |

## 2008

|      |                               |      |
|------|-------------------------------|------|
| 2008 | Claro E. Bergevin .....       | 1941 |
| 2008 | Gretchen Miller Kafoury ..... | 1959 |
| 2008 | John E. "Jack" Pelo .....     | 1974 |

## 2009

|      |                           |      |
|------|---------------------------|------|
| 2009 | R.F. "Dick" Monahan ..... | 1958 |
| 2009 | Daniel DeSiga .....       | 1967 |
| 2009 | Greg Ralston Pepin .....  | 1968 |
| 2009 | Dr. Philip Phillips ..... | 1975 |

## 2010

|      |                               |      |
|------|-------------------------------|------|
| 2010 | Richard K. Knuth, Ph.D. ....  | 1969 |
| 2010 | Mary Jane Towner-Glaser ..... | 1971 |
| 2010 | Tim Donaldson .....           | 1979 |

## 2011

|      |                                 |      |
|------|---------------------------------|------|
| 2011 | Edward Aliverti .....           | 1950 |
| 2011 | Lt. Gen. Robert D. Beckel ..... | 1955 |
| 2011 | Larry B. Siegel .....           | 1969 |
| 2011 | Drew M. Bledsoe .....           | 1990 |

## 2012

|      |                            |      |
|------|----------------------------|------|
| 2012 | John P. Folsom .....       | 1962 |
| 2012 | Jill A. Largent, M.D. .... | 1968 |
| 2012 | Megan Ferguson Clubb ..... | 1974 |

# >> GRADUATES OF DISTINCTION << AWARD RECIPIENTS 1999-2025

| AWARD<br>YEAR | RECIPIENT'S NAME | GRAD<br>YEAR |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
|---------------|------------------|--------------|

## 2013

|      |                           |      |
|------|---------------------------|------|
| 2013 | Carol Minnick Santa ..... | 1962 |
| 2013 | Dan Reid .....            | 1974 |
| 2013 | Craig Nelson .....        | 1981 |

## 2014

|      |                             |      |
|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 2014 | Thomas L. Copeland .....    | 1942 |
| 2014 | Daniel J. Hess .....        | 1968 |
| 2014 | Paul H. Schneidmiller ..... | 1970 |
| 2014 | David Wagner .....          | 1993 |

## 2015

|      |                                 |      |
|------|---------------------------------|------|
| 2015 | Judy Chamberlain Holloway ..... | 1962 |
| 2015 | Richard "Dick" Moeller .....    | 1963 |
| 2015 | Carol M. Barker .....           | 1974 |

## 2016

|      |                   |      |
|------|-------------------|------|
| 2016 | Gary Hanson ..... | 1976 |
| 2016 | Mark Kajita ..... | 1987 |
| 2016 | Jerry Zahl .....  | 1962 |

## 2017

|      |                                 |      |
|------|---------------------------------|------|
| 2017 | Bruce Hunt .....                | 1974 |
| 2017 | Jeanne Eggart Helfer .....      | 1977 |
| 2017 | Richard D. Simon, Jr, M.D. .... | 1968 |

## 2018

|      |                                  |      |
|------|----------------------------------|------|
| 2018 | Terry Atchison .....             | 1966 |
| 2018 | Dr. Randall Kenneth Barton ..... | 1971 |
| 2018 | Dr. Elizabeth MacDonald .....    | 1995 |

## 2019

|      |                            |      |
|------|----------------------------|------|
| 2019 | Peggy Blize Needham .....  | 1982 |
| 2019 | Scott Krivoshein .....     | 1983 |
| 2019 | Mary Lux Stumph .....      | 1983 |
| 2019 | Dr. Tony Billingsley ..... | 1993 |

| AWARD<br>YEAR | RECIPIENT'S NAME | GRAD<br>YEAR |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|
|---------------|------------------|--------------|

## 2020

2020 NO PROGRAM DUE TO COVID-19

## 2021

|      |                                 |      |
|------|---------------------------------|------|
| 2021 | Garth Lindsey .....             | 1962 |
| 2021 | Elizabeth "Libby" Frazier ..... | 1973 |
| 2021 | Kathy Covey .....               | 1973 |
| 2021 | Judith Huntington .....         | 1964 |
| 2021 | Mike Monahan .....              | 1960 |
| 2021 | Dr. Allison Bingham .....       | 1977 |

## 2022

|      |                                |      |
|------|--------------------------------|------|
| 2022 | Russ Colombo .....             | 1974 |
| 2022 | Deborah Underwood .....        | 1979 |
| 2022 | Mark Thompson .....            | 1970 |
| 2022 | J.P. "Jack" Frederickson ..... | 1952 |

## 2023

|      |                        |      |
|------|------------------------|------|
| 2023 | Norm Passmore .....    | 1972 |
| 2023 | Mary Vixie Sandy ..... | 1978 |
| 2023 | Steve Bughi .....      | 1978 |
| 2023 | Tera Watts Davis ..... | 1998 |

## 2024

|      |                              |      |
|------|------------------------------|------|
| 2024 | Doug Gwinn .....             | 1932 |
| 2024 | Karen Hedine .....           | 1972 |
| 2024 | Bill Fleenor .....           | 1969 |
| 2024 | Tricia Copeland Lubach ..... | 1985 |
| 2024 | Dean Lodmell .....           | 1952 |

## 2025

|      |                                    |      |
|------|------------------------------------|------|
| 2025 | Kevin Pribilsky .....              | 1981 |
| 2025 | Leslie Sesser .....                | 1997 |
| 2025 | Todd Stubblefield .....            | 1991 |
| 2025 | Alison Billingsley Bruggeman ..... | 2001 |
| 2025 | Glen Mitchell .....                | 1964 |



**Walla Walla  
Public Schools**

» 2024-2025 «