

#####

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2014

#####

Council welcomes new member, recognizes achievements of outgoing K-12 representative

Olympia — Randy Dorn has appointed Dr. Gil Mendoza as the new K-12 sector representative on the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC).

“I’ve known Gil for a long time,” Dorn said, “and his commitment to the students of this state has never wavered. He’ll be a valuable member of the Council.”

A lifelong educator, Dr. Gil Mendoza has had many roles in education, including teacher, coach, and counselor. From 2007 to 2011, Dr. Mendoza was superintendent of the Sumner School District. He joined the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) as a special assistant for special programs. Dr. Mendoza was assistant superintendent for the Special Programs and Federal Accountability Division until August 2014, when he was tapped to be OSPI’s deputy superintendent for K-12 Education.

“We welcome Gil to this new role,” said Dr. Gene Sharratt, the executive director of the council. “Dr. Mendoza’s commitment to closing the opportunity gap, providing greater access, and raising attainment for students is crucial for Washington State.”

“Being part of the Washington Student Achievement Council will be both humbling and exhilarating,” said Dr. Mendoza. “I am honored to have the opportunity of supporting our state’s students in their academic successes and in accepting post-secondary options for continued learning.” Mendoza will join the Council for its [meeting](#) on October 8, 2014.

Dr. Mendoza replaces outgoing member Scott Brittain, the assistant superintendent for instruction at Ferndale School District.

Under Brittain’s leadership, the Higher Education Coordinating Board transitioned into the current Washington Student Achievement Council. In the council’s first year, Brittain joined other members in a statewide tour to learn more about programs impacting student achievement. According to Brittain, that statewide tour reaffirmed the importance of partnerships.

Brittain was instrumental in shaping a council that prioritized partnerships, a principle that continues to be a key driver in the council’s efforts.

“Scott has served with distinction,” praised Gene Sharratt. “We will miss his authentic interest in serving all students and his focus on raising attainment for all Washingtonians.”

#####

Contact:

Emily Persky (media@wsac.wa.gov)
Communications Program Manager
360-753-7817

About the Washington Student Achievement Council: Established as a new cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington’s four major educational sectors. Find us online at www.wsac.wa.gov, on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WSACouncil.