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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Executive director of Washington Student Achievement Council to retire

Olympia—Gov. Jay Inslee announced today that Dr. Gene Sharratt, executive director with the Washington Student Achievement Council, will retire in June. Sharratt has served in the position for three years. Under his leadership, the Legislature adopted attainment goals for the state’s education system, reduced tuition, boosted College Bound Scholarship participation for low-income students, increased the number of high school courses that count for college credit, and expanded access to postsecondary training and educational opportunities for veterans and returning students.

“Gene was the perfect person to head the Student Achievement Council at this critical moment in our state’s efforts to establish opportunities for all world class education throughout the educational continuum. He sees himself as a representative of every student, no matter their path to higher education,” Inslee said.

“On a personal note, Gene’s positive outlook on life and work helped shape my administration in countless ways. He tells his employees he doesn’t want them thinking they are driving to work in the morning but driving to an opportunity. They live that because Gene lived that.”

Before joining the governor’s cabinet, Sharratt spent 10 years as a college professor and 30 years as a K-12 teacher, principal, school superintendent and superintendent for an educational service district in Washington, Alaska and Norway.

“Dr. Sharratt leaves not only this agency but every student in the state of Washington in a far better position than when he arrived here three years ago,” said Maud Daudon, chair of the Washington Student Achievement Council. “His particular brand of servant leadership, coupled with his inclusiveness and zeal for education, have united educational forces throughout the state. Under his leadership, the Legislature adopted ambitious attainment goals, and the state now has a road map to integrate all elements of our education system to achieve those goals. We at the council are so grateful for all that he has given and accomplished.”

“To work in a profession you love, with people you respect so highly, turns your duty into an honor and your opportunity into a privilege. I have appreciated the privilege of this leadership opportunity,” Sharratt said.

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About the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC): Established as a cabinet-level state agency in 2012, WSAC provides strategic planning, administrative oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington.

The [nine-member Council](#) includes five citizen members, one of whom is a current student, and one representative from each of Washington’s four major educational sectors. 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.

Find us online at www.wsac.wa.gov, on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on [Facebook](#).