

**Executive Director Finalists
- Highlights -**

On March 19, Council members submitted three names to Governor Jay Inslee for consideration as the next Executive Director of the Washington Student Achievement Council. Highlights of the candidates' professional backgrounds are included below.

Jana L. Carlisle, Ph.D.

The current Executive Director of Partnership for Learning (Seattle), Dr. Carlisle coordinated the development of several P-20 policy programs, including the most *recent A+ Washington: A Way Forward for All Students*. These statewide initiatives called for extensive stakeholder collaboration, coordination, and outreach from the Partnership for Learning team. Dr. Carlisle's education experience also extends to work as lead consultant on Washington's 2010 Race to the Top application, Senior Education Portfolio, Strategy, and Management Officer with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Cabinet member to the Superintendent of the Rochester City School District (New York), Director of Educational Services to the Industrial Management Counsel (New York), and Staff Associate to the National Center on Education and the Economy (New York).

Gene C. Sharratt, Ph.D.

Dr. Sharratt currently is Clinical Assistant Professor and Director of the Superintendent Certification Program at Washington State University. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles on educational leadership. Dr. Sharratt is an instructor and leadership coach for the Washington Leadership Academy, which provides job-embedded professional leadership training to school district leadership teams throughout Washington. For two state-level school administrator associations, Dr. Sharratt conducted research on superintendent selection and school board elections, and completed a 10-year study on incumbent board member election defeats in Washington. Dr. Sharratt's work experience includes service as Superintendent of the North Central Educational Service District (Wenatchee), Assistant Superintendent of Yelm Community Schools (Yelm) and Principal of Naches Valley Primary School (Naches).

Christopher M. Thompson

As current Director of Government and Public Relations for the Independent Colleges of Washington, Mr. Thompson conducts legislative advocacy and performs communications work for 10 private non-profit liberal arts colleges in Washington. He led a successful effort to prevent cuts to the State Work Study program and succeeded in winning passage of a law authorizing the University of Washington and Washington State University branch campuses to offer doctoral degrees. Mr. Thompson has extensive experience in Washington state executive and legislative positions, including service as Director of Government, College & Community Relations for the Higher Education Coordinating Board, Senior Research Analyst for the Washington State House of Representatives, and Deputy Communications Director for the Office of the Governor.