



For Immediate Release

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LEARN HERE PROJECT HONORS EDUCATION STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS



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2025 Learn Here Honorees gather for a celebration reception May 20 at Vancouver Innovation Center

VANCOUVER, Wash. (May 20, 2025) – Regional business and community leaders paused their daily commitments to recognize the strength of the local educational system by honoring 24 exceptional staff members and volunteers from schools and institutions across Clark County.

The recognition took place during the annual Learn Here Hero Awards ceremony, part of the broader *Learn Here Project*—an initiative that highlights the region’s robust educational offerings and celebrates individuals whose contributions inspire excellence, foster community, and enhance the appeal of Southwest Washington for prospective families and businesses.

Recognition also included a legacy award honoring WSU Vancouver Chancellor Mel Netzhammer. Netzhammer is retiring after serving the WSU system for 13 years and recently announced a gift to WSU Vancouver to support university-community engagement in Southwest Washington.

Approximately 140 community and education leaders gathered at the Vancouver Innovation Center to celebrate this year's honorees.

"We are deeply grateful for those who consistently go above and beyond for our students and schools," said Chad Sessions of Windermere Northwest Living. "These dedicated individuals are the unsung heroes working tirelessly to prepare our future citizens and workforce."

The Learn Here Project is a collaborative effort supported by Windermere Northwest Living, the Port of Vancouver USA, and coordinated by the non-profit business leadership organization Identity Clark County.

2025 LEARN HERE HERO HONOREES:

INSTITUTION	STAFF HONOREE	VOLUNTEER HONOREE
BATTLE GROUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Daniela Alexakis	Olesea Neaga
CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT	Shauna Ruse	Jorge Martinez
EVERGREEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Jason Castro	Kyle Rogers
HOCKINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT	Jennifer Hermann	Becky Kornell
LA CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT	Stacey Roy	Keith Stevens
RIDGEFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT	Angie Gaub	Margie Stoner
VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Chelsea Unger	Maria Gallardo
WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT	Dana Wilson	Melanie Wilson
CLARK COLLEGE	Scot Headley	Nanette Walker
CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	Sarah Thulin	Sue Isaacson
WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF	Edelmira Fernandez	Nancy Sinkovitz
WSU VANCOUVER	Brenda Alling	David Clausen

The quality of the region's educational institutions is frequently cited by prospective residents and employers as a leading reason for choosing to relocate or expand operations in Clark County.

The Learn Here Project reflects a community-wide commitment to recognizing and uplifting those who make a meaningful difference in local education. The project is supported by Windermere Northwest Living and the Port of Vancouver USA and coordinated by the non-profit business leadership organization Identity Clark County. For more information, please visit <https://www.discoverclark.org/learn/>.

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