

# Unlocking Students' Possibilities

*Superintendent of the year says school leaders have the great opportunity to set students in the right direction*

The 2012 WASDA Superintendent of the Year, Kristine Gilmore, has shown a commitment to her school district and community that few leaders exhibit.

After graduating from D.C. Everest Senior High School, Gilmore went to college, earned her degree and returned to her home school district to begin her career as a teacher. Since then, Gilmore has steadily moved up the ranks at D.C. Everest – elementary school principal, middle school principal, athletic director, and, finally, superintendent.

Right now, more than ever, education is a calling,” Gilmore said at the WASDA Luncheon held in her honor.

Gilmore celebrated the role that superintendents serve in their communities and students' lives.

“Students under us learn to read, learn to write, and learn to dream,” she said. “We help unlock all of these possibilities in our students. We help them understand the world we live in.”

Through school events like concerts, plays, athletics and other special events, Gilmore said superintendents also have the opportunity to bring their schools and communities together.

“Athletics is really about our community coming together,” she said. “Often it’s one of the common threads that can hold a community together.”

Most importantly, Gilmore said, as school leaders, superintendents can help set students up to be successful for the rest of their lives, “We get to teach our students they have the opportunity to control their own fate.”



“They get one chance at second-grade, one chance at third-grade, so we better do them right.” ■



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