

****MEDIA ALERT ****

Fife High School to Receive Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools National Banner at All-School Assembly on Wednesday, October 2

School earns national recognition for commitment to meaningful social inclusion for students with intellectual disabilities and for creating an accepting school environment

September 30, 2019 – Seattle – For its work in empowering students to be agents of change in their school and community, Special Olympics and ESPN will present Fife High School in Tacoma with a Unified Champion Schools national banner.

Fife High School is one of just five schools in the nation to receive national banner status this year for meeting 10 national standards of excellence. These standards revolve around inclusion, advocacy and respect and include implementing sustainable programs around Special Olympics Unified Sports (where students with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete as teammates), inclusive youth leadership and engagement throughout the whole school.

Fife High School will hold an all-school assembly to celebrate this achievement and to raise the national banner. Special guests participating in the assembly include ESPN analyst P.J. Carlesimo, Congressman Denny Heck and a surprise appearance by Governor Jay Inslee.

- WHAT:** Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools National Banner presentation to Fife High School
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 2
- WHERE:** Fife High School – 5616 20th Street East, Tacoma
- TIMELINE:** 11:15-11:45 a.m. – Press conference featuring Fife High School students and administrators, Congressman Denny Heck, P.J. Carlesimo
12:30 p.m. – All-school assembly begins
1:15 p.m. – Approximate time for surprise appearance by Governor Inslee
1:45 p.m. – Approximate time for banner presentation
2:00 p.m. – Assembly ends
- WHO:** Governor Jay Inslee
P.J. Carlesimo, veteran NBA coach and ESPN game analyst
Congressman Denny Heck
Ray Roberts, Seahawks Legend
Dave Lenox, Special Olympics Washington CEO

Assembly Highlights

- Program will feature and will be led by Unified athletes and student leaders
- Surprise appearance and address to school by Governor Jay Inslee
- Unified basketball game (10 minutes) featuring athletes with and without intellectual disabilities

Other dignitaries scheduled to attend the assembly include:

- Kim Roscoe, Mayor of Fife
- Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Hyun Kim, Fife City Manager

- Kimberly Yee, Fife School Board President
- Iesha Kidd, Cheryl Reid Simons, Chelsea Bjorkman and Jennifer Mayhew, Fife School Board Members
- Kevin Alfano, Fife School District Superintendent
- Christine Nhan, South Sound Director for Senator Patty Murray

About Special Olympics Washington

Special Olympics Washington provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for more than 19,500 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community. For more information on Special Olympics Washington, please visit www.specialolympicswashington.org.

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Media Contacts

Jaymelina Esmele, Special Olympics Washington
(206) 578-3339, jesmele@sowa.org

Stacia Kirby, 1205 Marketing
(206) 363-1492, stacia@1205marketing.com