

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### Two from BG win state counseling honors

One winner of a state counseling award by a Battle Ground Public Schools educator would be justification for button-busting bragging rights. So, how about two such honors?

The Washington School Counselor Association (WSCA) this week named Denice Harvey, the district's counseling director, as state counseling supervisor of the year for 2012. But wait, that's not all. The WSCA also selected Steve Rhodes of Prairie High as the state high school counselor of the year.

A proud Superintendent Shonny Bria said, "Both of those people are incredibly dedicated to counseling and to children. I couldn't be prouder of them. This is a real honor for Denice and Steve – and for the Battle Ground School District."

Harvey, who is also the school district's director of career and technical education, was selected for the counseling-administrator award from among six nominees statewide and Rhodes from among four in the high school-counselor category.

"The role of school counselors is to support academic achievement," Harvey said. "In that capacity they address three areas: personal/social issues, career counseling and academic counseling."

"In years past, counselors often spent 80 percent or more of their time working with 20 percent of the students. The idea now is to develop classroom and small-group instructional strategies to teach these three skills to all students, thus being able to spend more time with a lot of students and less time with just a few."

"Our counselors have worked hard toward the goal of serving all students. I am proud of them and the work they've done."

Harvey, a native of Kent, Wash., has a bachelor's degree from The Evergreen State College in Olympia and a master's from Lewis & Clark College in Portland. She has been the district's director of counseling and career and technical education

since 2005. Before that, she held administrative posts with Washougal Public Schools and the Clark County Skills Center.

**Steve Rhodes** -- Rhodes grew up in tiny Creston, Wash., west of Spokane. After earning his bachelor’s degree at WSU in Pullman he went to work in even tinier Touchet, Wash., near Walla Walla, teaching science in a combination middle and high school for two years.

After earning his master’s degree at WSU he worked for three years in Soap Lake, Wash., as counselor to students at all grade levels. In 1991 he was hired as counselor at Prairie High, where he has remained and is counseling chair.

“I wouldn’t have won this award if we didn’t have tremendous efforts by the other counselors and support staff at Prairie,” Rhodes said. “Everybody has pulled together and done a great work.”



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