Walla Walla Public Schools

Graduates of Distinction

2003

These Walla Walla Public Schools graduates have distinguished themselves in their communities, professions, and careers.

They continue to give of themselves to society and bring honor to the district.

Eleanor Roosevelt

The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.
We proudly salute our...

2003 Graduates of Distinction

With the Graduates of Distinction Program, Walla Walla Public Schools wants to recognize and honor the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates. In addition, we want to pay tribute to school staff members who provided positive school experiences, and were inspirational in the lives of these graduates. Our Graduates of Distinction will serve as positive role models for current and future students. It is important for students to see how impressive their future accomplishments, both personal and professional, can be to our community and society. As we celebrate with our distinguished graduates and staff members, we also bring honor to Walla Walla Public Schools. Quality education is our past, present and future.

Inspirational Staff Member

Mark Anderson – Class of 1973
Inspirational Artist
Whitman College Graduate

One summer during high school, 1974 Wa-Hi graduate Mark Anderson was hired to help a local teacher with a small art foundry he was starting. Then, after graduating from Whitman College in 1978 and teaching art for several years at Walla Walla Community College, Mark started a small foundry of his own in an auto repair garage. His first client was sculptor Manuel Neri, who had met Anderson and gave him some small pieces to cast in bronze. His small business grew substantially and 23 years later, Walla Walla Foundry has earned an international reputation in the art world.

Throughout the years, Mark has consistently given of his time to support the arts in the Walla Walla Valley. He has mentored and taught art to students of all ages. He encourages renowned artists to give lectures for Whitman classes while they are in town, and he invites students and community members to visit his foundry and learn about bronze casting. Mark also was instrumental in bringing the Smithsonian Art Train to Walla Walla to introduce a variety of art to young children and their families. In 1993, Mark received the Pete Reid Award for Young Alumni at Whitman College, and he was a Governor’s Art Award recipient in 1996.

Mark and his wife, Patty, have two children. His nominators praised his leadership, energy, gentle demeanor, and wise, quiet voice.

Inspirational Staff Member

Mary Jo Geidt (his high school English teacher)

Frank – Class of 1946
Retired Educator
Whitman College Graduate
Walla Walla Rotary Club Icon

Gene distinguished himself as an excellent teacher and administrator, but he also has been very involved in the Walla Walla community. Active in the Unitied Way, Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association, and the Walla Walla Booster Club, Gene stands out in his service with the Walla Walla Rotary Club and Rotary International. Over the years, he has served as president, been chair of many different committees, and garnered honors for meritorious service. He also had the privilege of serving a one-year term as District Governor, a position held by only five Walla Wallans in 60 years.

Gene and his wife, Jean, stay active with their family, which includes four children and many grandchildren. Gene’s nominators were unanimous in their appreciation of his fairness, energy and enthusiasm.

Inspirational Staff Member

Erwin Beard, deceased (his eighth grade teacher/principal)