Voices From the Field

The Teacher, Principal and Superintendents of the Year will be recognized and share brief remarks on how their work is leading the 40-40-20 vision to reality.

Nanette Lehman, Teacher of the Year

Nanette Lehman, a second grade teacher at Haines Elementary in the Baker School District, has been named Oregon's 2012-13 Teacher of the Year. Nanette teaches second grade in a small, high-poverty, rural school in eastern Oregon. The school, Haines Elementary, was recognized this summer as one of 30 Model Schools in the state – high-poverty schools identified for their successful student outcomes. Nanette serves as a teacher leader in both her school and district. She is on the site council, serves as co-chair of the Parent Teacher Community Organization, leads the Math Cadre for her district, and has served as Board Member and National Representative for the Oregon Council of Teaching Mathematics.

Principal Kevin Ricker- Principal of the Year

Centennial High School Principal Kevin Ricker has been named the Oregon High School Principal of the Year. Ricker has been the school's principal since 2010. The high school has since seen significant gains in student achievement. On the Oregon state assessments, Centennial students increased their scores by 12 percent in reading and 12 percent in mathematics in one year. According to the Oregon state report card, Centennial outperformed all schools with comparative demographics, and they far exceeded the state averages in both assessment areas. Within his first year, Ricker updated poor classroom and lab technology, turned a contentious final exam schedule into one friendly for staff and students alike, identified low performers and provided necessary interventions, and implemented a three-lunch class schedule to reduce cafeteria crowding and to provide every student a seat.

Superintendent Maryalice Russell, Superintendent of the Year

McMinnville School District Superintendent Maryalice Russell has been named the Oregon 2013 Superintendent of the Year. She has been superintendent of McMinnville Schools since 2002. Under Dr. Russell's leadership, McMinnville schools have made tremendous gains in student achievement and have expanded opportunities for students at every grade level. The District is a finalist for the Race to the Top grant which will be announced later this month, and its most recent honors include Model School designations for Buel, Grandhaven and Memorial elementary schools. The district had more model schools than any district in the state. This is the third year in a row that McMinnville administrators have been honored with leadership awards. Last year, Sean Burke was named 2012 Oregon Assistant Principal of the Year, and Cathy Carnahan was named 2011 National Middle School Principal of the Year.