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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Tacoma PTAs Recognize Outstanding Volunteers and Educators**

Tacoma — At Tacoma Council PTA's Awards Banquet held May 29, 2013 at Truman Middle School, past and present volunteers, advocates, and educators were honored for their outstanding contributions to children in our community. Tacoma Council PTA presented two Outstanding Educator Awards, an All-City Golden Acorn Award, an Outstanding Advocate Award and an Honorary Life Membership Award. Local unit PTAs also recognized and honored their award recipients at the banquet. The special volunteers were joined at the annually held banquet by local unit PTA officers, principals, Tacoma Schools Superintendent Carla Santorno, School Board Members Debbie Winskill and Karen Vialle and past award recipients from the 1970s to the present.

When a PTA presents awards, the recipient receives an award pin and a special certificate. A financial contribution is made in the recipient's name to the Washington State PTA Scholarship fund, which provides \$1,000 to \$2,000 grants to Washington State High Schools seniors pursuing post-high school education.

The following is a list of Tacoma PTA Local Units who presented awards during the banquet: Fawcett, Sheridan, Sherman, Skyline, Whitman, and Whittier Elementary Schools, Truman and First Creek Middle Schools, and Foss High School.

Tacoma Council PTA's president, Kellie Bennett presented an Honorary Life Membership Award to Marilyn Beale. Marilyn Beale has always kept children 'in the center' of all she does. She is a substitute teacher in the district. She has been involved with Tacoma's PTAs since 1969, was a Tacoma Council PTA President from 1989 -1991, and remains active with PTA, currently serving on Tacoma Council PTA's Board as Reflections Co-Chair.

The Council's Golden Acorn Award was awarded to Jamie Devereaux. Devereaux is the outgoing President of Gray Middle School PTA. She has been involved with the PTA since the early 1990s and has served in leadership roles at four Tacoma PTAs over the years, as well as at the Council PTA level.

Highly Capable teacher Kathleen Casper was presented an Outstanding Educator Award for her work with students, foster children, and her advocacy in our community. Casper received the 2012 Golden Apple Award from KCTS, Channel 9 and was one of

the honorees of Business Examiner Media Group's "40 Under Forty" program that recognizing those making significant contributions to the South Sound community.

Tacoma Council PTA awarded Shari Shelton an Outstanding Educator Award. Shari Shelton was recognized for her many contributions to students across the school district as well as her pivotal role in ensuring student art work is regularly featured in Tacoma Weekly publications.

This year's All-City Outstanding Advocate Award was given to Jennifer Boutell for her advocacy efforts for students in our school and community. She is known for her work with the PTA, Parents and Friends for Tacoma Public Schools, the No on I-1240 campaign, assistance in school bond and levy campaigns, as well as her internet presence, which includes Tacomamama.com.

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