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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 10, 2015

Monroe's Karen Rosencrans Chosen as Western WA's Best Principal

Monroe, WA – Karen Rosencrans, principal of Sky Valley Education Center (SVEC) has been selected as the Best Principal in Western Washington by voters in a contest by Evening Magazine.

Rosencrans moved to the Monroe area 14 years ago from Wisconsin, where she had been involved in alternative education for several years, to become an assistant principal at Monroe High School. She was soon approached by the founding director of SVEC, Bill Hainer, who was looking for a replacement when he retired.

"They needed someone with an alternative school heart," explained Rosencrans. At SVEC, parents are the primary educators, with the staff of SVEC being partners in the design and implementation of the learning plans. "I visited Sky Valley and fell in love with it." After interviewing in front of a panel of parents and staff, she was approved.

Joyce Marquardt, a teacher at SVEC, had the privilege of being there for the transition. "It's always scary, wondering what the new person is going to do, if they are going to change the school," Marquardt said. "She is always asking "is this going to help kids learn? She has really maintained the integrity of the school. It's a tough job and she does it well"

You can hear Rosencrans' excitement in her voice. "We really live the school district's mission statement, that all students have a passion for learning," she said.

Rosencrans was delighted to win, but not surprised when she learned that it was completely voter driven. "The most fun part of this is all the moms and dads and kids who have come up to tell me they voted," said Rosencrans. "These are passionate people and to be embraced by them has changed my life. It's made me laser-focused on what's really important in education and that is for every child to discover their passion and pursue it."

A ceremony to honor Rosencrans will be held on Monday, December 14, as part of a family assembly at Sky Valley Education Center, 351 Short Columbia in downtown Monroe.