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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2012

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State Board of Education Welcomes New Student Board Member

Olympia, WA – Eli Ulmer, a sophomore at Wilson Creek High School in Wilson Creek, Washington, is the new student representative to the Washington State Board of Education. Eli began his two-year term with the Board during the May 8-9 meeting in Yakima, Washington.

Eli's appointment is the result of a competitive application process that culminated with interviews of potential candidates with a panel of students from the Washington Student Advisory Council (WASC).

Board membership calls for two student representatives, one from eastern and one from western Washington. Eli is replacing outgoing eastern Washington student Board member Jared Costanzo, a senior at Chiawana High School, in Pasco, Washington, who ended his two-year term with the Board this May. Eli will join the current western Washington student representative Matthew Spencer, a junior at Woodinville High School in Woodinville, Washington. Matthew is completing his first year as a student member.

Eli is excited to work with the Board on behalf of K-12 students. "My position on the Board will allow me to share my voice and perspective, which I believe will be an asset not only to the Board but to my community as well," said Eli.

Eli is an active and involved member at Wilson Creek High School. Eli is the 2012-2013 ASB president of his school and also takes part in activities with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Future Farmers of America (FFA).

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About the State Board of Education: The State Board of Education provides advocacy and strategic oversight of public education. The Board is comprised of 16 members: five are elected by school board directors, seven are appointed by the Governor, two serve as student representatives, and one serves as a private school representative. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is also a member. The Board's recent work includes the approval of a new career and college-ready graduation requirements framework and developing the first Washington state intervention policy into our persistently lowest-achieving schools.
