

Graduate Commencement Speaker Dr. Larry Nyland



Dr. Larry Nyland was hired as superintendent for Seattle Public Schools in January 2015 after being appointed by the School Board as the interim superintendent in August 2014. He leads Washington State's largest K-12 school district, with 8,000 employees and 52,000 students.

Dr. Nyland started his career as a high school teacher in Gig Harbor, spent time as a principal and superintendent in Alaska, and then returned to Washington to become the superintendent of the Pasco School District. He served for nine years as the Marysville School District superintendent, as well as the interim superintendent for the Shoreline School District. He also served as the chief academic officer and Human Resources director for six years at Highline Public Schools.

A 1966 Roosevelt High School graduate, Dr. Nyland received his Bachelor of Arts, Master's degree and Doctorate in Education Administration from the University of Washington. He also served on the Dean's Advisory Council at the University of Washington from 2009-11.

Dr. Nyland has a long history with Seattle Pacific University, including serving as a faculty member from 1993-97, when he founded the Superintendent Preparation Program, as well as teaching in an adjunct position for many years. He considers himself a "great friend of SPU."