

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

*Ms. Amy Bragdon*

Ms. Amy Bragdon is this year's recipient of the Yakima Valley Community College *Distinguished Alumnus Award*. Raised in Spokane, Ms. Bragdon received her Bachelor of Arts degrees in Education and Music, after transferring from Yakima Valley College (YVCC). "That critical start as an adult, living away from home for the first time, all began on 16th Avenue 45 years ago, in Yakima, Washington; I've come a long way and have a rich and productive life. YVC was my beginning. Thank you, YVC!" stated Bragdon. She went on to earn her Master of Arts degree in Administration from Eastern Washington University (EWU).

Ms. Bragdon is currently a governor appointee to the Washington State Board of Education, and has recently been reappointed for four more years by Governor Gregoire. Before retirement she taught in Hawaii for two years, then served the West Valley School District (WVSD) in Spokane for 31 years as a classroom and music teacher, then later as an elementary and middle school principal, and high school assistant principal. She also taught at EWU for several years.

Ms. Bragdon has many professional accomplishments in her over 30-year career. At WVSD she established the Pre-First Program, as well as created and administered the first parent involvement program, Strengthening Parent Involvement in Children's Education (S.P.I.C.E.). She also served on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Middle Level Task Forces, EWU Principal Professional Advisory Board for Middle Level and High School, and Whitworth College Focus Task Group for Professional Certification.

Ms. Bragdon has given back to her community by providing support to many organizations including the Japanese American Citizens League, Spokane Buddhist Church, YMCA, Spokane Police Historical Committee, Center for Organizational Reform, Optimist International, and has recently been selected to the Board of Trustees of the Hutton Settlement Children's Home. She has also provided leadership for various professional organizations.

"I am humbled by this opportunity to turn back the clock to those glorious years of 1964 through 1966 when I attended, formerly called, Yakima Valley College. I made the right decision to attend YVC. My two short years at YVC were filled with lasting friendships, leadership opportunities, and solid, rigorous academic standards," continues Bragdon. Ms. Bragdon and her husband have been married for 37 years and live in Newman Lake, WA. They have two married children and one grandchild and another on the way.

