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Ryan Maxwell Named Washington State 2015 High School Principal of the Year

Sunnyside School District principal transforms culture and achievement at Sunnyside High School

OLYMPIA—Sunnyside High School Principal **Ryan Maxwell** was named the 2016 Washington State High School Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP), a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP). Maxwell was surprised by the honor and presented the award by AWSP President Jennifer Kindle during a school assembly on Monday, March 7.



"I'm still taking it in," says Maxwell of the award. "I love my work, I do it for kids, to support kids and help them be successful. I have a great team of staff, administrators, and students that make it possible."

Maxwell played an instrumental role in developing and sustaining the strategies and systems to monitor and increase student achievement as well as transforming the overall culture of the school. The district graduation rate is now at nearly 90 percent for all students and this January, Sunnyside High School was named a School of Distinction for performing in the top 5 percent in reading and math assessments.

"You have to have the right person with the right personality to not only lead the charge to make a change, but sustain that change when the outside support ends," says Hellner-Gomez, Executive Director of Instructional Leadership for Sunnyside School District. "That our scores and graduation rates have not only improved to this point, but continue to rise, is a testament to Ryan and his hard work."

Maxwell started his career in Sunnyside teaching at the now closed PRIDE High School, before moving to Sunnyside High School to teach history. He previously served at the school's assistant principal and is now in his fourth year as principal.

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program

Maxwell will travel to Washington, D. C. later this year to be recognized for his accomplishment. The program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, annually recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals. For more information, visit www.nassp.org.

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STATE COMPONENTS

Elementary School Principals of Washington (ESPAW)
Association of Washington Middle Level Principals (AWMLP)
Washington Association of Secondary School Principals (WASSP)

NATIONAL COMPONENTS

National Association of Elementary School Principals (ESPAW)
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)