FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mr. Alfonso Lopez, Principal at Lewis and Clark Elementary in Wenatchee PS,
Named 2019 Elementary Principal of the Year

At Lewis and Clark Elementary, diversity issues are seen as an opportunity to grow

OLYMPIA — Lewis and Clark Elementary Principal Alfonso Lopez (Wenatchee PS) was named this year’s Washington State Elementary Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington, a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

Those that nominated Mr. Lopez said the following about his work:

Mr. Alfonso Lopez was born and raised in Mexico and immigrated to the United States to instill the value of education to his family. Over the past decade, Mr. Lopez’s goal has been to make a difference in his students’ lives regardless of their cultural background, a complete opposite mindset than that of how he was raised. Mr. Lopez sees diversity issues as opportunities to grow. Instead of avoiding cultural diversity issues, he is proactive and seeks school improvement. He takes the opportunity to discuss difficult situations, listen to multiple perspectives, and develop next action steps, in order for his dual-language school to be more successful. He is an agent of continuous improvement to promote each student’s academic success and well-being. He manages uncertainty, risk, competing initiatives, and politics of change with courage and perseverance, providing support and encouragement and openly communicating the need for, process for, and outcomes of improvement efforts.

Mr. Lopez’s career at Lewis and Clark is like a storybook tale, from Para Professional to Principal. His leadership has been instrumental in the success of his dual-language school, and this award truly represents his devotion and commitment to the staff, students and parents at Lewis and Clark Elementary.

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program
Mr. Lopez will be honored this fall in Washington D.C. as part of the National Distinguished Principal of the Year program, which is sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education and VALIC. All state winners participate in a series of events and activities over the course of two days, culminating in a formal awards banquet. There is no national winner at the elementary level.