



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2019

Strong leaders, strong schools, strong students.

1021 8th Ave. SE, Olympia, WA 98501 | www.awsp.org
360.357.7951 | 800.562.6100 | fax: 360.357.7966
facebook.com/awsp.principals | @awsp_principals

CONTACT

Scott Friedman, Associate Director (Eastside)
360.357.7951 | c: 509.279.9555 | scottf@awsp.org

Mr. Jason Smith, Principal at Gov. John R. Rogers High School in Puyallup SD, Named 2019 High School Principal of the Year *People, Not Programs, Make a Difference*

OLYMPIA -- Gov. John R. Rogers High School Principal Jason Smith (Puyallup School District) was named this year's Washington State High School Principal of the Year by a panel of principals representing the Washington Association of Secondary School Administrators (WASSP), a component of the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).

As principal of John R. Rogers for five years, Mr. Smith and his staff have adopted an "AP For All" philosophy, believing that all students should experience the rigor of an Advanced Placement class. This has increased the number of students taking AP exams by more than 30%. Mr. Smith also fully believes that one of the most important things he can do as a principal is to hire great teachers. Mr. Smith writes, "I have become very aggressive in hiring. I've come to embrace the philosophy that it is 'people not programs' that make a difference."



Assistant Principal Anne Hoban says, "Governor John R. Rogers is not only home to the most ethnically diverse population in the Puyallup School District, but also houses many targeted programs for Special Needs Students, such as the self-contained KITE (Behavior Program), Support Center (which includes a range of special needs students from intellectually disabled to medically fragile students) as well as our school district WRAP Program (which educates all students on the Autism Spectrum in our school district). Jason Smith is intricately involved in each of these programs, ensuring these students have equal access to general education programs when appropriate, as well as working one-on-one with families when behaviors create a barrier to access."

Staff member Colleen Pancake has this to say about Mr. Smith: "Jason is the heart and soul of Rogers High School and the reason our school culture is so strong. He's the true definition of a servant leader, always striving to take care of his staff and students in any way possible."

Jason was also nationally recognized on May 13 as Jostens Renaissance Educator of the Year for his leadership. Only two educators from more than 6,000 schools across the country were selected for the award.

National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program

Smith 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.

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)