



2018 Washington State Outstanding Young Educator Award



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Julian Cortes recipient of the 2018 Washington State ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award

Olympia, WA May 3, 2018 – Washington State ASCD has announced that Mr. Julian Cortes, Fifth Grade Teacher at Norman Rockwell elementary, is the recipient of their Outstanding Young Educator Award (OYEA) for 2018. The Outstanding Young Educator Award is intended to recognize an educator who achieves excellence in instructional leadership in teaching and learning. The award will be accepted by Mr. Cortes this spring.

Julian Cortes obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Central Washington University and plans to graduate this June 2018 with a Master of Arts in Education from Washington Governors University.

Julian's positive impact on daily instruction and learning is not what set him apart from other instructional leaders. It is the impact he is making on culture, climate, and equity for all students, staff, within his school and district that make him stand out and deserving of recognition as the Washington State ASCD Outstanding Young Educator.

Julian is a Lake Washington School district alum and began elementary school with zero English. When reflecting on Best Practices and the needs of students, Julian looks back on his own experience from the teachers that left an impression on him and his education as an English Language Learner. Julian has been key to emerging work in his building around teaching empathy. Julian has taught Better World Ed empathy lessons to his students (which include ELA and Mathematics components) and shared the impact they had on students with his colleagues. His work in this area was high level which led the creators of the content to fly out to film Julian teaching lessons to his students. Check out this [video](#) of Julian's students as they share their perspectives on Empathy Challenges they've been engaging with in Julian's classroom.

In addition to his work around culture, climate, and equity at the building level, Julian has also shown leadership in this area at the community and district levels. Julian is currently a member of the Advisory Board for the Lake Washington School District New Teacher Support Program (NTSP). Julian was also recently recruited by the Principal of Redmond High School to speak to students whose families have had similar life journeys about his experiences preparing for college and becoming a teacher. Julian will return to visit with these students throughout the year.

It is worthy to note that Julian is a self-reflective innovator who searches for tools and systems that will assist him in monitoring and meeting his students' individual learning needs. He is one of a handful of fifth grade teachers in the district piloting the new SBA Interim Assessments in Mathematics.

Julian continually looks for ways to make his class fun, engaging, and memorable. His Principal has found Julian dressed as a "Math Wizard" festooned with a cape and hat as he engaged his students in a lesson on area and circumference. Between witty quips and math puns, Julian delivered high-level, discussion-focused instruction. Julian engages his learners in learning experiences like this all the time.

We are pleased to be able to recognize Julian Cortes and his many contributions to education by presenting him with the 2018 Washington State ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award. Congratulations Julian!

Founded in 1956, as Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, now known as Washington State ASCD, is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged. For additional information, please contact Executive Coordinator, Carrie Lam.

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