



# 2021 Washington State Outstanding Young Educator Award



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Molly Strand Recipient of the 2021 Washington State ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award

Olympia, WA May 12, 2021 – Washington State ASCD-WSASCD announced Molly Strand, Kindergarten teacher at Mullenix Ridge Elementary School, South Kitsap School District, as the recipient of the WSASCD 2021 Outstanding Young Educator Award (OYEA!). The Outstanding Young Educator Award is intended to recognize an educator who achieves excellence in instructional leadership in teaching and learning. Ms. Strand received the award during a virtual staff meeting this week.

Ms. Strand makes a difference in her students' lives and her colleagues' lives. She is a highly motivated individual who strives for success in her professional life to help students overcome all obstacles. She is respected and loved by students, staff and parents and always puts forth outstanding effort to exceed the basic requirements with endless energy. Many parents have expressed their gratitude for the education their students have experienced during this difficult time and attitude with which Ms. Strand demonstrates her love for each of them.

Ms. Strand makes learning fun while also engaging her students with intention. She does an excellent job of identifying the individual strengths and weaknesses of each student. Her analysis of student achievement is ongoing with constant modification in her instruction to ensure students feel successful. She saw the need for a better, more age appropriate writing tool, so she created one. Her entire kindergarten team now uses this tool.

Ms. Strand is more than prepared and ready to accept new challenges. She is a team player and eager to work together for the good of all children with a “whatever it takes” work ethic. When instruction was remote, she adapted lessons and activities which she shared with her colleagues. The kindergarten team felt students had stronger phonics skills than past years, even though half the year was spent distance learning.

Outside of school, Ms. Strand brings discipline and fun into her personal life and makes an impact on her community. She is an avid runner and recently ran a 50-miler (yes, in one day), paddle boards in Washington in April and supports others in healthy eating and lifestyles. The environment is important to her and she does everything she can to care for the earth and teaches her students small ways they can take care of our planet. She does not like to be the center of attention but steps up when a job needs to be done--a fun job or not. At the end of her kindergarten day, Ms. Strand continues to serve students, helping to load students into their cars and leading Girls on the Run, a program for girls that promotes girl empowerment by teaching life skills through lessons and running.

Washington State ASCD is pleased to recognize Molly Strand for her dedication to her students, outstanding instructional leadership, and contributions to education by presenting her with the 2021 Washington State ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award. Congratulations Ms. Strand!

*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.*