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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Juanita High School's Terry Jess Named Washington State 2025 Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year**

Kirkland, WA – Juanita High School's Terry Jess has been named the Washington State Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year in recognition of his outstanding leadership, dedication to equity, and transformative impact on the school community.

Since joining Juanita High School, Jess has been a driving force for change, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for students and staff alike. His commitment to equity-focused leadership has led to initiatives such as Affinity Homerooms, non-gendered bathrooms, and a Family Engagement Resource Center to better serve multilingual families. He has also spearheaded professional development for staff on racial equity and has been instrumental in creating safe spaces for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students.

Jess is widely regarded as a leader who not only listens but takes action. His advocacy for historically marginalized students, emphasis on restorative practices, and dedication to student success have reshaped the culture at Juanita High School. Through initiatives like the newly established Juanita Flex Academy and data-driven systems for student support, he continues to bridge opportunity gaps and ensure every student has a path to success.

"Terry Jess has changed the dynamic and energy of our school," one nominator shared. "Students feel empowered to bring issues to administration and know they have a voice that will be heard."

Jess's impact extends beyond Juanita High School, as he collaborates at the district level to develop affinity spaces for BIPOC staff and advance equity initiatives. His leadership is an example of how intentional, student-centered administration can create lasting, meaningful change in education.

For his unwavering dedication and visionary leadership, Terry Jess is a well-deserving recipient of the Washington State Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year award.