

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

David Morrill | [david@awsp.org](mailto:david@awsp.org)

**Central Valley's Opportunity Elementary Principal Mandi Rehn is the 2020 Elementary Principal of the Year**

*Spokane Valley principal works hard to make sure everyone feels included*

**OLYMPIA** — Dr. Mandi Rehn, principal at Opportunity Elementary in the Central Valley School District, (Spokane) was named this year's Washington State Elementary Principal of the Year by a team representing the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP).



In Dr. Rehn's nomination submission, she was called an exceptional leader of students and adults. Her work to make sure staff, students, and families feel included in a positive way was widely praised. In fact, she goes even further to ensure community partners attend each family night and has fostered relationships with all sorts of community organizations.

Dr. Rehn has been a principal for 13 years, including eight years at Opportunity Elementary. She recently completed her superintendent's credential with Ph.D. while guiding the school through relocation and renovation and the whole host of logistical challenges that presented along the way.

"Dr. Mandi Rehn is truly a lifelong learner who continually challenges herself to improve. She is passionate about supporting, encouraging, and championing the students, staff, and families of Opportunity Elementary School. There is no stronger advocate for meeting the needs of *all* children than Dr. Rehn and her commitment to 'find a way' has strengthened the Opportunity school community and the Central Valley School District," said Central Valley Superintendent Ben Small.

When asked to name three big accomplishments as principal, Dr. Rehn didn't list awards or achievements, but rather told three stories about developing students, supporting a staff member through an extremely difficult time, and a five-year success story from a pair of students coming from dire circumstances. It's the focus on relationships that defines Rehn as a leader and one of many reasons she is this year's Elementary Principal of the Year.

**National Distinguished Principal of the Year Program**

Dr. Rehn will be honored next 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.

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**GRADE-LEVEL COMMITTEES**

Elementary Grade Level Leadership Committee  
Middle Level Grade Level Leadership Committee  
High School Grade Level Leadership Committee

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**NATIONAL COMPONENTS**

National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)  
National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)