

Principal of the Year

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gible for the national Principal of the Year Award.

Under Wilson, Benson's graduate rate rose to 88.8 percent for 2016-17, well ahead of the Oregon average of 74.8 percent. Benson's dropout rate for that year was 0.2 percent; the state average was 3.9 percent.

Wilson said he is proudest of being able to build a community with Benson's diverse student body that is about 70 percent students of color and with about 70 percent who qualify for the free-and-reduced lunch program.

"It's just being able to work with students, staff and family and help bring them together," Wilson said.

Wilson manages a campus that shares space with the Dart Program, Alliance at Benson, Benson Evening Scholars, a full slate of Summer School Programming, and several other alternative pathways programs.

"He is a valued peer for the administrators of those programs helping to serve our most vulnerable learners," said Ginger Taylor, former Benson Evening Scholars Principal.

Wilson is in his fifth year as Benson principal after moving from Grant, where he was a vice principal. A graduate of Roosevelt High School and the University of Oregon, Wilson started his education career as a health teacher at Harriet Tubman Middle School in 1997, before moving to Roosevelt

to teach in 1997.

He also served as a coach, of basketball at Harriet Tubman, and track and cross country at Roosevelt.

In 2006, he moved into administration, first as dean of students at Roosevelt, then moving to Grant as a vice principal in 2007. In 2013, he took over as principal at Benson, succeeding Carol Campbell, who took the same position at Grant.

Wilson showed just how dedicated he is to Benson when the school's girls basketball team made the state championship game. He offered to pay the admission of any Benson student who wanted to watch the Techsters play Southridge at the Chil-es Center.



PHOTO BY TRACY STADAMIRE/UN-4-GETTABLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Allen Temple Church Pastor LeRoy Haynes and Oregon Supreme Court Associate Justice Adrienne Nelson attend a recent fundraiser at the home of community leader Kay Toran to raise donations and purchase customized bricks to rebuild the church.

Allen Temple Brick Campaign

Portland community leader Kay Toran recently hosted a fundraiser at her home to help Allen Temple Church rebuild from a 2015 fire.

Participants could make a donation or purchase customized bricks which will be laid on the grounds of the rebuilt northeast Portland church. Generous contributions have come from Tom Kelly of Neil Kelly remodeling, Stan Pauls, Décor Cabinets,

Prosper Portland, NW Natural, Maranatha Church, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Life Change Church, Walsh Construction, Alicia Yoder, Matt Leeding and Ryan Wilde.

It's not too late to purchase your own brick for the re-building campaign. Four different sizes with your words are available by calling the church at 503-852-1758.

Gun Measure Petition Training

An initiative petition promoting public safety in Oregon by banning the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines takes another step forward when a rally and signature gathering training session for all ages is held on Monday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave.

"Now is the time, this is the

moment. We encourage everyone to join our Lift Every Voice campaign for Ballot Measure 43," said campaign chair Rev. W. J. Mark Knutson, Augustana senior pastor.

The other chief petitioners are Rev. Alcena Boozer, former principal of Jefferson High School and pastor emeritus of St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church, and

Rabbi Michael Cahana of Congregation Beth Israel. The treasurer is Imam Muhammad Najieb, director of the Muslim Community Center of Portland and a veteran of the Marines. Rev. Lynn Smouse-Lopez of Ainsworth United Church of Christ is serving as an alternate petitioner.

More information, visit lifteveryvoiceoregon.com.



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April 2018 CALENDAR

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

22

Earth Day,
established 1970
Girl Scout Leader
Appreciation Day

23

Home Run Day
William Shake-
speare born, 1564

24

Library of Congress
established (1800)
Pigs-in-a-Blanket
Day

25

Admin. Profession-
als/ Secretaries Day
Hubble Telescope
launched, 1990
World Penguin Day

26

Take your Daughter
to Work Day
Hug a Friend Day
National Pretzel
Day

27

Arbor Day
Tell a Story Day

○ 28

James Monroe
born, 1758 (5th
President)

29

Zipper Day (pat-
ented by Gideon
Sundback in 1913)

30

National Honesty
Day
Anniversary Lou-
isiana Purchase
completed (1803)

