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The Portland Observer

Volume XLVIII • Number 49



'City
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Roses'

www.portlandobserver.com
Wednesday • December 18, 2019

Committed to Cultural Diversity



PHOTO COURTESY OF MILKEN FAMILY FOUNDATION

Gresham High School teacher Julie Rowell (left) reacts to hearing the news she won 'the Oscars for teaching,' a highly esteemed education award from the Milken Family Foundation. On Rowell's right is Amari Thomas, the school's attendance liaison.

An 'Oscar' for Teaching

Educator removes barriers to expand opportunity

Nothing is more important to Julie Rowell than removing barriers and expanding opportunities for students in the Gresham-Barlow School District and

specifically at Gresham High School. Rowell's English Language Learner classes engage students who typically have only two to three years of English, propelling them to achieve in the classroom and in life.

In celebration, Rowell has earned a prestigious award for teaching and an unrestricted \$25,000 cash prize from the Milken Family Foundation, the organi-

zation's only winner from Oregon this year and among just 40 teachers they recognized nationwide, receiving the honor last week in a surprise assembly at Gresham High School.

Rowell's students regularly advance more than a year per grade. As a fluent Spanish speaker and dedicated bilingualist she goes the extra mile for struggling students, inspiring learners with her high

expectations and aspirational messages of inclusiveness.

"A teacher like Julie Rowell knows how to really connect with students and make an extraordinary impact," said Greg Gallagher, senior program director for Milken. "Her dedication, commitment and creative approach exemplify

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