

# Onpoint's Prize for Excellence in Education

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crafting new bus schedules and ensuring every student received support through carefully scheduled classes and counseling. Even though students could not be at Markham, Brown-Warrens made sure Markham was always with them by sending a daily newsletter called the "Energy Bus News."

The four Educators of the Year will have their mortgage or rent paid for one year and will receive \$2,500 for each of their schools. In addition, the four runners-up will receive \$5,000 for themselves and \$1,500 for each of their schools.

"Our Educators of the Year Awards recognize the remarkable educators whose dedication impacts their students and community every day," said Rob Stuart, President and Chief Executive Officer of OnPoint Community Credit Union. "This year's winners and runners-up use their amazing creativity and innovation to inspire students. As we celebrate the 15th year of these awards, we are honored to recognize and support the educators who go above and beyond to teach and lead our youth."

The OnPoint Prize for Excellence in Education has awarded more than \$843,000 in prizes to 326 local educators and schools since 2010. The 2024 campaign will award an additional \$193,000 to deserving public and private K-12 educators and schools.

Gold Star Educator of the Year goes to Dr. Traniece Brown-Warrens Principal, Markham Elementary School, Portland, Ore. In January 2024,

an ice storm left Markham Elementary School inoperable. Principal Traniece Brown-Warrens immediately jumped in to ensure as little disruption as possible. She worked with four other schools to "host" students by crafting new bus schedules and ensuring every student received support through carefully scheduled classes and counseling. Even though students could not be at Markham, Brown-Warrens made sure Markham was always with them by sending a daily newsletter called the "Energy Bus News."

Since becoming principal in 2022, Brown-Warrens' impact on Markham can be felt just about everywhere. She introduced calming corners in each classroom to help students self-regulate their emotions. She implemented a "What I Need" (WIN) initiative for students to dedicate 30 minutes each day to address individual learning and emotional needs – which led to increased state assessment scores in math, English, and students' feeling of belonging.

To spark a renewed enthusiasm for literacy, Brown Warrens introduced a book vending machine and spearheaded the "Markham Reads a Million Minutes" read-a-thon, raising funds for the PTA and boosting reading proficiency. She also helped establish new student groups such as the Black Excellence Club, the Asian Pacific Islander Club and the Leadership Club.

OnPoint will also award a \$5,000 cash prize to each of the following 2024 runners-up and make a \$1,500 donation to their schools for resources and supplies.

# Tigard-Tualatin School District Announces New Leader

## Dr. Udosenata Named as Superintendent

After a national search, the Tigard-Tualatin School District (TTSD) School Board announced that Dr. Iton-Etok O Udosenata will be the District's new Superintendent beginning July 1, 2024. Dr. Iton-Etok O Udosenata is currently serving as the Deputy Superintendent with the Salem-Keizer School District and will step into the position held by Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith who announced she is retiring at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Udosenata to the Tigard-Tualatin School District. Because of his focus on working as a collective to advance student outcomes and his commitment to centering students in every decision, it was clear to the board that Dr. Udosenata would be the perfect leader for our district," said Board Chair, Tristan Irvin. "His demonstrated ability to foster academic achievement, promote equity, and build collaborative relationships with our parents, community leaders, and local organizations are key areas that will guide our district forward and build on our successes. We are excited to introduce him and his family to the



Dr. Iton O. Udosenata. Photo Courtesy of PPS

TTSD community, and look forward to our district's future!"

As a leader, Dr. Udosenata brings a student-centered focus with a commitment to creating systems where all students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. He brings a knowledge of state-level policy for working with the school board to identify a vision for unifying staff to a collective purpose while maintaining a focus of academic achievement, advancement, and fiscal responsibility.

While serving as Deputy Superintendent for the Sa-

lem-Keizer School District for four years, Dr. Udosenata accomplishments include working with the bargaining team to successfully settle a contract and as a vital member of the executive team, bridging an \$80 million dollar budget shortfall. Additionally, he oversees secondary instruction, student and family services, and the Office of Student Equity, Access, and Advancement. Dr. Udosenata also supervises the Office of Safety Risk and Management Services and has worked to improve safety, risk management, and community engagement strategies to promote school safety and mitigate risk.

"I understand the importance, now more than ever, of fostering safe and welcoming schools that nurture our students' academic and social-emotional needs from the day they enter our classrooms as kindergarteners to when they accept a diploma as graduates. The impact of public education is long-lasting, and as a Superintendent you can expect my best in service of all TTSD students, staff, and community to make the greatest impact possible," said Dr. Udosenata.

Dr. Udosenata holds a BA in Ethnic Studies, an MA in Education Leadership, and Doctorate in Education Methodology, Policy, and Leadership from the University of Oregon.



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