



Minority Business

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Dr. Charlene Williams, Director of the Oregon Department of Education Pictured with Bryan Butcher Jr., 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year along with Mike Wells, Director of the Oregon Lottery.

Middle School Math Teacher Named Oregon's Teacher of the Year

Highlighting Dedication, Passion, and Excellence in Education

In an exciting surprise announcement on October 2, 2024, Bryan Butcher Jr., a Beaumont Middle School math teacher, was named and celebrated as Oregon's 2024-25 Teacher of the Year!

"Bryan exemplifies the impact committed teachers can have on students' lives," said Governor Tina Kotek. "From helping each of his students learn math in the way that works for them, to creating the Black

Student Union at his school, teachers like Bryan go above and beyond to make Oregon schools a place where students not only learn, but feel a sense of safety, belonging, and pride. I'm thrilled to see his hard work being honored."

Bryan Butcher Jr. is a Portland native and Grant High School graduate. He attended Morehouse College, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in sociology and graduated Magna Cum Laude. Following graduation, Butcher joined Teach for America, and thus began a teaching journey which would eventually lead him to Beaumont Middle School, where he has taught math for the past eight years. When visiting Butcher's classroom, you will see a thriving community of learners who are

working together. With the guiding principles of respect and effort, Butcher believes maintaining high standards and expectations creates the conditions for students to flourish. Respect and effort provide an environment where students feel comfortable asking questions, participating in discussions, and taking risks. In Butcher's class, there is an expectation and joy that comes from learning, every day.

"Bryan Butcher Jr. is not only an educator and an advocate, he is a champion for his students," said Dr. Charlene Williams, Director of the Oregon Department of Education. "This is a teacher who has engaged creatively with students and his community, learned enthusiastically from his colleagues, and carved out unique spaces for

students to feel seen, heard, and valued. Mr. Butcher seeks to build confidence in his students by demystifying mathematical concepts and grounding his classroom culture in effort, respect, and a willingness to take academic risks. It is clear that Mr. B is beloved in his community because he prioritizes not only academic excellence but also the well-being of his students."

"My goal is to instill a sense of pride and acknowledgement in my students that they have already built the foundation to be successful," Butcher said in his application. "Every year, I strive to create a classroom culture where rapport leads to learning."

The Oregon Teacher of the Year program is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Education in partnership with the Oregon Lottery. Butcher was celebrated as a Regional Teacher of the Year in September, and will receive a \$10,000 cash award as the 2024-25 Oregon Teacher of the Year. A matching \$5,000 is also awarded to the Portland Public School District.

"It's impressive to see how Bryan Butcher Jr. has built trust and genuine connections with students and his community," said Oregon Lottery Director Mike Wells. "We're proud to celebrate his ability to help students overcome challenges, while meeting them with grace and encouragement."

The Oregon Teacher of the Year is selected after an extensive application process. Nominees from schools throughout Oregon submitted packets of information including testimonials and letters of support from administrators, students and colleagues. From the written material, applicants were assessed on leadership, instructional expertise, community involvement, understanding of educational issues, professional development and vision.

As the 2024-25 Oregon Teacher of the Year, Butcher will serve as a spokesperson and representative for all Oregon teachers. He will also receive year-long professional development and networking with other state Teachers of the Year through the Council of Chief State School Officers' National Teacher of the Year program.

A Vision for the City

Stepping into the City of Portland's Political Race

When it comes to community, engaging in politics is more than service—it's sacrifice. Stepping into the City of Portland's political race for a commission seat takes courage, resilience, persistence, determination, and, above all, a belief that serving

as an elected official will result in better lives for all of us who call Portland home.

Born and raised in Northeast Portland, Portland City Council District 2 candidate Tiffani Penson describes her vision for the City as one where people and businesses thrive, are supported by transparent City policies and practices, and that all Portlanders have access to opportunities. Her focus is on making Portland a safe and livable city, housing our neighbors, strengthening our economy and ensuring a skilled workforce, and crafting a city budget that is accessible and accountable.

Tiffani has twice been elected by voters to serve on the Portland Community College Board of Directors, once in 2019 and once in 2023. During this time, the Opportunities Center on 42nd Avenue was built, which includes affordable housing and daycare, through partnership with Home Forward and the Native American Youth and Family Center. As PCC Board Chair, Tiffani oversaw the executive search for PCC's new president, Dr. Adrien Bennings,

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Tiffani Penson, candidate for Portland City Council District 2