

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chase Buffington Wins AWSP's 2022 President's Award

Cispus Learning Center survives the pandemic thanks in large part to Buffington's efforts

OLYMPIA — Each year, the AWSP Board President has the opportunity to select an individual or group who demonstrates support of principals and the principalship in the education of each and every student. The Association of Washington School Principals is thrilled to announce that our 2022 President's Award has been awarded to Chase Buffington, Director of the Cispus Learning Center.

Throughout the course of the pandemic, Chase woke up every morning in the fight of his life to save the Cispus Learning Center. Cispus hosts incredible outdoor learning and leadership programs for students and adults across the state. COVID forced Cispus to close its doors, and without any programs, there was no revenue coming in.



Chase took that challenge head-on and worked tirelessly to secure grants and advocate for rescue funds, while at the same time making much-needed infrastructure improvements. Those improvements ensured that when Cispus opened the doors back up for kids, the facility would last another 50 or more years. His positive attitude, sheer determination, and belief in what is possible for Cispus is why he is this year's AWSP President's Award Winner. Thanks to Chase, AWSP is still the only principals association in the country that owns and operates an outdoor learning center.

While the President's Award was officially presented to Chase at our annual luncheon during the AWSP/WASA Summer Conference in June, Chase wasn't able to receive the award in person because back at Cispus Learning Center. Camps were in full swing and he was with the kids in the woods.

In addition to running Cispus, Chase is a school board member for the Morton School District, vice-president of the White Pass Scenic Byway, and is currently the steering chair for the Washington Outdoor School Consortium. Chase graduated from Eastern Washington University with a bachelors of Outdoor Recreation and was awarded the Outdoor Recreation Major of the Year in 2007. He is a member of Association of Experiential Education (AEE), Association of Challenge Course Technology (ACCT), and Leave No Trace Principals (LNT). His wife is a math teacher at the White Pass School District and they have two sons, Weston and Owen.

Learn more about the Cispus Learning Center at www.Cispus.org.

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