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Announcing new Area Senior Director, Isaac Cardona

August 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Isaac Cardona, one of our district's rising leaders, will join the Office of School Performance as an Area Senior Director. Working under Dr. Esther Omogbehin, Isaac will support principals in eight elementary schools and four K-8 schools in the Grant-Wilson cohort.

Isaac fills the opening left in OSP by Oscar Moreno Gilson, who was hired as superintendent of the Woodburn School District. We thank Oscar for his nine years of service to PPS and wish him all the best.

For the last four years, Isaac has served as principal at Jason Lee, leading the school through its conversion from a K-8 to elementary school in 2018. During his time at Jason Lee, Isaac established a climate and culture with the core values of safety, respect and responsibility, and a focus on family engagement. Under his leadership, Jason Lee achieved high academic growth, including the highest possible score of 5 in ELA in the ODE report card. The Portland Tribune has called Jason Lee an "overachieving school" and one that can "change students' destinies."

He put the cultural heritage of Jason Lee's diverse community at the forefront, holding a Lunar New Year Celebration, Dia De Los Ninos and a Black Brilliance event that celebrates the struggles and strengths of the Black community.

Isaac began his career as a middle school English teacher and a program director in Texas. He moved to Oregon to raise his family and to continue working in education, serving as an administrator in a neighboring district before joining PPS as assistant principal at Jason Lee in 2015. He earned two Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of New Mexico, in English and Criminology, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration from Columbia University.

Please join me in congratulating Isaac on his new role.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.
Chief of Schools



Isaac Cardona

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