



Oregon Small Schools Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OSSA names 2025-2026 Principal of the Year from Clackamas County

Colton, OR – The Oregon Small Schools Association (OSSA) is proud to announce that Dr. Shane Bassett has been named its 2025-26 Principal of the Year. Shane is the principal of Colton High School part of the Colton School District, located in Colton Oregon, in Clackamas County.

Dave Kline his superintendent stated that : Under Dr. Bassett’s visionary leadership, Colton High School successfully moved from a monitored accreditation status to full accreditation high school—a milestone that reflects his unwavering commitment to academic excellence and institutional integrity. This achievement alone speaks volumes about his ability to lead with purpose, strategy, and results. While also his leadership to build a supportive student-centered environment where staff can thrive.”

In a letter of support from his staff it was stated: “Dr. Bassett’s leadership style is collaborative and student-centered. He listens with intention, makes informed and inclusive decisions, and empowers staff to innovate and grow. Under his guidance, Colton High School has strengthened academic rigor, expanded career and technical education pathways, and developed a strong college and career readiness program that prepares students for all post-secondary options. Beyond measurable outcomes, Dr. Bassett’s genuine care for people defines his leadership. He inspires trust, fosters unity, and builds an environment where excellence and empathy coexist. His steady presence and tireless advocacy have transformed the culture of Colton High School and elevated the standard of leadership within our district. Dr. Shane Bassett is highly deserving of recognition and is a sure fit for Principal of the Year. His integrity, vision, and heart for students embody the very best of educational leadership.”

OSSA recognizes one principal each year who excels in his/her leadership position. Criteria include integrity, leadership, commitment to community, scholarship and student achievement. The OSSA Board of Directors is very happy to honor Dr. Shane Bassett this year celebrating all that he has accomplished.

Dr. Bassett will receive his OSSA 2025-26 Principal of the Year award at the COSA Winter Conference at the Salem Convention Center in January 2026.

OSSA recognizes one school administrator each year who excels in his/her leadership position. Criteria include integrity, leadership, commitment to community, scholarship and student achievement. OSSA serves as an advocate for the benefits of rural education and small schools across the state. For more information, visit the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators website click the link to the Oregon Small Schools Association@ www.oregonssa.org.

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