



**Springfield
Public Schools**

NEWS RELEASE

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**Hamlin’s Cynthia Nagao Honored at
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**
Winner of 2016 Human Rights Leadership Award

SPRINGFIELD, ORE.— Hamlin Middle School’s Cynthia Nagao was honored at this year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration event on January 18 with the 2016 Springfield Alliance for Respect and Equality (SAFER) Human Rights Leadership Award.

Three times a year, SAfER honors individuals who, through personal commitment and action in support of equality and respect, demonstrate the values of social justice set forth by leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Cynthia’s passion to make sure EVERY student at Hamlin succeeds is infectious and helps create a positive, schoolwide atmosphere for students, families and staff,” says a nominator.

As Hamlin’s family resource center coordinator, Nagao works tirelessly to provide students and their families with a safe, welcoming connection at the school. According to one nomination, “She is able to make students feel valued, and does the same for other members of students’ families.”

Nagao is a key figure at Hamlin, filling in where needed to provide essential wraparound services for students. In the Family Resource Center, students can come for anything from a kind word, to a box of cereal or a toothbrush. She was involved in creating an emergency weekend food program in collaboration with FOOD for Lane County and Springfield Faith Center; she also coordinates the holiday food drive. She has also taken charge of the school’s Middle College/ASPIRE mentoring program that connects middle schoolers with caring community members. She has also taught parenting classes and filled in where needed at special events, fundraisers and extracurricular activities.

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