



October 27, 2026

CRANE MIDDLE SCHOOL'S MRS. RUBYCELL RODRIGUEZ NAMED ARIZONA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

YUMA, Arizona — Crane Elementary School District is proud to announce that Mrs. Rubycell Rodriguez, Assistant Principal at Crane Middle School, has been named Arizona's Assistant Principal of the Year by the National Principal Association (NPA). This prestigious recognition honors her outstanding leadership, dedication to student success, and commitment to fostering a positive school environment.

Mrs. Rodriguez was nominated for the award by Crane Middle School Principal Ryan Tyree earlier this school year. In celebrating her achievement, he shared: "This recognition reflects the leadership Mrs. Rodriguez brings to our campus every day. From championing the whole child through NME practices and PBIS, to her steady support of our students, staff, and families, she makes Crane Middle School a better place for everyone who walks through our doors."

With 20 years of experience in education, Mrs. Rodriguez has served as Assistant Principal at Crane Middle School for the past five years, following 15 years as a classroom teacher. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to supporting students and empowering educators.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Rodriguez is actively involved in the Yuma community, volunteering with the local fire department and participating in service opportunities through her faith-based community.

Reflecting on this recognition, Mrs. Rodriguez shared: "I am incredibly humbled and honored to have been selected as Arizona's Assistant Principal of the Year. This recognition represents the power of showing up every day, building meaningful relationships, and believing in the potential of every student and educator. I am grateful for the people who have guided, supported, and challenged me along the way. Most of all, I am thankful that God continues to guide my journey. This recognition inspires me to keep learning, growing, and serving with passion and purpose."

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“Outstanding school leadership makes a difference in the lives of students, teachers, and entire school communities,” said Dr. Paul Tighe, Executive Director of the Arizona School Administrators. “These exceptional school leaders demonstrate the dedication, and commitment to students that we see in schools across Arizona every day. We are proud to recognize their accomplishments and grateful for the work they do to support students and educators.”

Superintended Mr. Dale Ponder added “We are incredibly proud of Mrs. Rodriguez for being recognized as Arizona’s Assistant Principal of the Year. This prestigious honor is a reflection of her exceptional leadership, unwavering dedication to students, and genuine commitment to creating a school environment where every child feels valued, supported, and empowered to succeed. The impact of Mrs. Rodriguez extends well beyond the classroom, positively influencing the lives of students, staff, and families each day. We are fortunate to have her as part of the Crane Crew, and we could not be more excited to see her receive this well-deserved statewide recognition. As she advances to the national level, she carries with her the pride and support of her school community and our entire district.”

As Arizona's Assistant Principal of the Year, Mrs. Rodriguez will advance as the state's candidate for National Assistant Principal of the Year. She will also be recognized at the National Principals Conference in February 2027 and at the Arizona School Administrators Association Conference in June 2027.

Crane Elementary School District proudly celebrates Mrs. Rodriguez's well-deserved achievement and looks forward to supporting her as she advances to the national level.

Congratulations, Mrs. Rodriguez, on this outstanding accomplishment!

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Photo of Mrs. Rodriguez is attached to this release for public distribution.

