

YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD - Josh Moss

Following His Path in Education

“I have an interesting story about this place,” said Josh Moss, the recipient of CBU’s 2014 Young Alumni Achievement Award. “I went to Chemawa Middle School, Ramona High School, and ended up right here in the middle. From seventh grade all the way through college, I was right here on Magnolia Avenue.”

While the road to CBU seemed clear for Josh, there were some bumps along the way. “I got into a lot of trouble when I was in high school, partying and going the wrong way,” Josh recalled. “CBU really grabbed a hold of my life and steered me in a direction that was Christ-centered.”

Josh came to CBU in 1999 on a basketball scholarship, but it was while volunteering at a summer basketball camp that he would discover his true calling. “I’ll never forget, I’d been working with this 5-year-old for five straight days on how to make a basket,” Josh recalled. “When he made it, the look on his face, his mom coming out of the stands - I fell in love with teaching, and I thought, this is what God wants me to do.”

Josh graduated from CBU in 2003 with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and History, and completed his teaching credential in 2004. He went on to obtain his MS in Education from CBU in 2007.

Josh was offered a teaching job at Wells Middle School in 2003 while doing his student teaching there, and has been with the Alvord USD ever since. “I’m really passionate about [middle school] kids,” Josh said. “I feel like they’re the group that needs the most guidance and direction, and I feel like I can have the biggest impact on them because of where they are socially, mentally, physically.”

While teaching at Wells Middle School, Josh served as a History teacher at all 3 grade levels, ASB director, an AVID coordinator, and coached three sports. As a result of his tireless devotion to his students, the district began grooming Josh to become an administrator after only four years. In 2007, Josh became Program Manager, overseeing after-school programs and activities for at risk youth.

“This job sounded perfect,” Josh said. “I was the kid who was running around and cared about sports and all that stuff.” As Program Manager, Josh served 16 elementary and 4 middle schools, coordinating reading and math intervention programs, sports programs and staff development and training. “It’s the kid who’s just hopeless, who gives you a hug at the end of the year and says thanks for believing in me – that to me is everything.”

In 2010, the assistant superintendent of Alvord USD offered Josh the position of Assistant Principal at Villegas Middle School, and he was named District Administrator of the Year for 2011-12.

This summer, Josh stepped into his newest leadership role as Principal at Villegas Middle School. “My school district has shown a lot of faith and confidence in me,” Josh said. “They know my heart, they know my passion, they know my energy, and they know that nobody cares about kids as much as I do.”

Today, Josh can still be frequently spotted on Magnolia Avenue, teaching as an adjunct in CBU’s education credential program and administrative cohort. “I love getting a chance to work with people that I respect and love,” Josh said. “I think ultimately, I would love to teach full time at a Christian university, and teach teachers to do what I’m doing now. But right now, my place is in public education. And I love that I get to do both.”

In addition to his full-time role as middle school principal and teaching part-time as a university adjunct, Josh serves on the board a local nonprofit organization, FitOne Foundation (F1F). F1F is Southern California's only 100% donation-based and community supported CrossFit gym and training facility.

With a passion for connecting physical wellness and spiritual wellness, Josh and his partners hope to do more than provide an affordable place to exercise. “We’re going to offer community and fellowship and a passion for people, meeting them where they are, physically and spiritually.”

F1F is also an official affiliate of CrossFit Kids, and offers nutrition seminars and sport-specific training programs for high school students. “This for me is about my passion for education and connecting people to something,” Josh said.

“My focus and purpose is making every conversation count, making every kid count, making every relationship count. That goes for parents, teachers, everybody,” Josh said. “It’s rough, it’s exhausting, but I don’t struggle with energy – God has given me what I need. I truly feel like I’m living my purpose.”