

Montana Teacher Recognized with Rising Star Award

Arlington, Va., February XX, 2026 – Rosel Joy Dalisay, Special Educator with Crow Agency Public School, received the 2026 Rising Star Special Educator of the Year Award from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). This award recognizes a CEC member teacher in the first five years of their special education career who has shown exceptional potential for leadership in teaching, service, and scholarship.

Rosel is the first international teacher to serve at the Crow Agency Public School, which largely serves children of the Crow Tribe. She is noted for her dedication to her students, approaching her work with cultural respect and responsiveness, and drive to learn. She entered Crow Agency Public School with an elementary education endorsement and accepted the position as a special education teacher at a time when there was an urgent need to fill that role. As she worked, she also pursued her Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Certification in Special Education K-12, which she completed summa cum laude.

“She collaborates with colleagues, mentors new teachers, and builds strong partnerships with families, ensuring that every student receives holistic support,” shares Sherry Foote, Principal of Crow Agency Public School.

Rosel has been recognized by her peers and administration for her vital role in helping her school in meeting special education compliance requirements. Her organizational leadership led to streamlined systems, fidelity in IEP implementation, and accurate documentation, strengthening instructional quality, and student outcomes.

“In a district where 90% of students are Native American, Rosel has been intentional in embedding Crow culture, traditions, and values into her instruction,” says Mrs. Angela Keltner, Associate Superintendent of HR and Policy and Director of Special Services at Hardin School District 17H&1. “This has provided students not only academic growth but also pride in their heritage and identity. Families describe Rosel as a true partner in education, one who listens, communicates openly, and advocates for their children. Beyond her classroom, Rosel has emerged as a collaborative leader. She mentors new teachers, co-teaches across grade levels, and contributes to schoolwide initiatives,”

Dalisay will be recognized this March, along with other CEC Professional Award recipients at the CEC Convention & Expo in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) is the largest international professional organization dedicated to high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable for individuals with disabilities. Learn more about CEC at <https://exceptionalchildren.org/>.