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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Redmond Proficiency Academy

**Introducing five of RPA's new teachers, counselors, and campus supervisors**

REDMOND, Oregon — RPA's new teachers, counselors, and campus supervisors come from all around the west coast, Oregon, and the United States. Some are first-year teachers, others have several years of experience as educators, and we're excited to welcome them all to the RPA team for what we know will be an amazing year. This week will feature Justin Calbreath, Lauren Christy, Johnny Wilson, Andrew Goldstein, and Jim Ellington.

Tenth-grade counselor **Justin Calbreath**, originally from Springfield, Oregon, has been in the San Diego area for the past 13 years where he was also a counselor. After college, he worked as an ocean kayak guide for three years, touring groups around the La Jolla Cove.

"I love being able to support students throughout their high school journey," Calbreath said. "It is such an exciting and formative time in a person's life."

Calbreath, his wife (also a school counselor in Bend) and two small children, are enjoying all that Central Oregon has to offer.

First year teacher **Lauren Christy** grew up in Bend and received her Master's in Teaching from OSU-Cascades. She will teach chemistry, zoology and chemistry of cooking.

She said she is looking forward to her first year at RPA because of "The people and the freedom. Everyone, staff and students, are respectful, engaged, and friendly. I also feel a tremendous amount of freedom in getting to choose what and how I want my students to learn. I can make my lessons as fun and as rigorous as my students need."

Christy received her Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife and used to work with raptors as a wildlife rehabilitator.

Astoria, Oregon-native **Johnny Wilson** spent the past seven years teaching at Culver High School in Culver, Oregon. He will be teaching mathematics at RPA's high school.

He said he is looking forward to teaching at RPA because of the way the school is structured.

“Everything that we do is different from the traditional model, but there isn’t a single part of it that doesn’t make perfect sense,” Wilson explained. “ Although it’s considered an outside-the-box model, it truly is common sense education. It’s very inspiring stuff, and I’m very thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of that.”

**Andrew Goldstein** comes to RPA most recently from Bend, but he has lived all over the American West (CO, WY, NM), Japan for a year - where he also taught, and grew up in Atlanta, GA.

“I love the opportunity to work with kids and help them expand their horizons and experience new perspectives on life and literature,” Goldstein said. “Working towards that ‘aha’ moment for kids is extremely gratifying.”

A first year teacher, Goldstein will teach Freshman Humanities; Humanities Work Keys; AP Lit & Comp.

**Jim Ellington** begins his role as high school campus supervisor, where his function is to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors at RPA.

Ellington comes to Central Oregon from “all over,” previously holding various management positions in federal law enforcement, government and state agencies, major corporations, and higher education institutions.

On his new role, Ellington said, “I enjoy the opportunity of utilizing the security skills that I have acquired over the years to help provide a safe learning environment.”

Stay tuned for next week when another five educators will be featured.

### **About Redmond Proficiency Academy**

Redmond Proficiency Academy (RPA) is a tuition-free public charter school located in Redmond, Oregon. Now in its eleventh year, RPA serves over 900 students from grades 6th-12th throughout Central Oregon. With an innovative and personalized proficiency-based collegiate model, RPA provides dynamic pathways to success for all students.

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