

Biography

Joy O'Renck is a longtime teacher and current middle school assistant principal in Junction City, Oregon. She studied English at Adams State University and Educational Leadership at Lewis and Clark College. She has served students in a variety of settings, including south Los Angeles, rural Oregon, and Chemawa Indian School. Though she has often elected to work in schools where students face overwhelming life challenges, her pupils have continually outperformed expectations for academic growth and achievement. Witnessing the repeated success of "at-risk" students has taught Joy one lesson: every student can succeed when given the opportunity and support they need, and it is educators' moral imperative to provide that opportunity and support. This belief led Joy to report neglect and harm to Chemawa's students to BIE leadership when repeated communications to Chemawa's administration failed to improve conditions for students. Since 2011, Joy has been working with Oregon Public Broadcasting and former colleagues to ensure that Chemawa's students receive the educational opportunities they so richly deserve. Joy and her husband, Joey, are foster/adoptive parents to a brilliant 20-year-old college student and bio parents to a charmingly smelly 1-year-old.