

For Immediate Release
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Ripon, WI – The Ripon Area School District is proud to announce that Anthony Alvarado has been chosen to receive the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award. We are proud to honor Mr. Alvarado's accomplishments, which illustrate the value of a life of service to others.

Alvarado commented "my life mission is to rid the world of hopelessness by empowering others to strive toward their full potential. I've been blessed to have had a hand in creating many essential things, but nothing as important as my two beautiful children, Gayvn and Jaedah. I was only able to truly understand this blessing when I started my life in recovery."

The battles and victories in his personal life inspired him to start Rise Together in 2013. Rise Together is a non-profit that harnesses the power of storytelling to ignite a movement of hope that saves lives. Rise Together has helped educate and empower hundreds of thousands of people to prevent addiction and promote mental health.

He shares, "I believe that the universe has much more in store for us than we can possibly imagine, but our time can be shorter than what we would ever expect and that true happiness is not dependent on how much we have but instead how much we are willing to fight for what matters most. I believe that we will never have all the answers, so put yourself around those that help you grow. I believe in kindness, not only to others but also to yourself. Learn from the past while being present, but don't forget to dream. Lastly, but most important, have faith in something greater than yourself. This will seem a little braggadocious, and that's because it is, but just go with it! By age 33, I had been identified by FORBES as a movement builder. The lifesaving work that is my legacy has been featured in HuffPost, USA Today, NPR, PBS, NBC, CW14, documentary film, and I have even been recognized by the White House Office of the National Drug Control Policy for my service to others. My name is Anthony Alvarado, and I approve this message. Mic drop here."

Congratulations, Mr. Alvarado, on being selected as this year's recipient of the Ripon Area School District Distinguished Alumni Award.

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