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Wapato JOM Program Receives National Recognition

The Wapato School District's commitment to supporting its Native students is receiving national attention.

The National Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) Association has selected the Wapato JOM Program as the **Exemplary Program of the Year for Region 6**, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The "Exemplary Program" title designates Wapato's JOM program as a model of best practices that other programs across the nation can look to for inspiration and guidance.

Adding to the District's celebration, Wapato High School teacher Roger Jacob was named the **Region 6 Teacher of the Year** by the National JOM Association. Mr. Jacob was recognized for his dedication to teaching the Ichishkiin language, the traditional language of the Yakama people, within the district. His work plays a vital role in preserving and revitalizing the language and culture for the community's youth.

The Wapato program and Mr. Jacob will be honored during the 2025 National Johnson-O'Malley Association Conference Awards Banquet in Denver, CO on Monday, November 10. The Wapato JOM program and Mr. Jacob will also be recognized and celebrated during the Wapato School Board's regular business meeting on Wednesday, November 12, at 5:30pm in the District's Board Room.

The Johnson-O'Malley Act, established in 1934, is a federal program designed to provide educational opportunities that would not otherwise be available to Native students through the public school system.