

## September/October Newsletter 2018 Interview Series

# Contract Learning Center

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Welcome

Welcome to a new school year and welcome to the Contract Learning Center! The first newsletter is an interview of one of CLC's most valued and cherished members, Tony Torres. Our interview series is a way to introduce staff members of the Grandview School District that work directly or indirectly with your students.

*Let Today be the Start of Something New.*



## Exclusive Interview of Tony Torres by CLC students

**What inspired you to be a teacher or work in education?**

Creating opportunities for everyone, I work with eliminating barriers and allowing students to have the opportunity to be successful.

**How long has this been your profession?**

I've been doing this for 12 years.

**Have you ever thought about a different career? If so what?**

Yes, I have a degree in criminal justice, so I'd be a juvenile probation officer.

**Why criminal justice?**

I would like to be able to work with at risk teens and be a role model for them.

**How many years of college did you need to go through?**

I went to school for six years, but for what I do, you only need four. I went for educational assistant and sports coach but dropped out at the age of 20 because I was having a baby.

**What is the best part about your job?**

I change lives - it's rewarding. I get to work with families as a whole. I work with students who get sent to court for not being at school.

**What is the worst part about your job?**

I work with lots of families with barriers, it's hard to separate yourself and your feelings. You get attached and take the problems home sometimes. When someone drops out, I take it personal.

**Did you want this career as a kid? Why or why not?**

No, growing up, I was really good at math. I went to the University Of Washington for

computer engineering but dropped out, started working at a school and fell in love with it.

**What were your childhood dreams?**

Growing up, I wanted to be a scientist. My grandpa used to call me a científico. (Científico is Spanish for scientist)

**Do you have any heroes?**

Growing up, I idolized my third grade teacher. He was funny and helped me understand who I wanted to be in life. I was born in Mexico and he was the first person I really connected with, outside of my home.

**How was it, coming from Mexico and having to learn a new language?**

Moving here was hard because everything is so different, the food is different but my dad always reminded me that we came for the education opportunities.

**What is your favorite book? What is the last book you read?**

*The Hobbit*. When I read it, it was the first book I really got lost in. I read it like three times. The last book I read was *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

**Last movie you watched**

Forrest Gump

**Favorite sports team**

Cleveland Cavaliers

**What gets you motivated in the morning?**

I've always had good role models in my life, so my three daughters. I want to and need to provide, be a good friend and mentor for my children.

**What advice would you give your high school self?**

I would study more, take more risks. I got through high school, but I could have been better.

**Upcoming dates to watch for:**

Fall Conferences – early November

SBAC Fall Make up testing (ELA & Math)

Thanksgiving Holiday – November 22 & 23



We have been busy getting students started on their path to graduation and helping others continue on the path that they have already started. Our 2018 graduates left many empty seats in the Contract Learning Program, and we have been meeting lots of new students and families.

Our staff will continue working to make CLC the best that it can be. We look forward to sharing student successes and program improvements with parents and community members. Please call us if you have questions, and visits are always welcome. We are excited to get to know our new students!

Our office phone number is (509) 882-8545.