



City of Edmonds Media Release

Office of the Mayor ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA 98020

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To: Media

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LOCAL EDMONDS STUDENT SELECTED AS ASSISTANT LANGUAGE TEACHER IN HEKINAN JAPAN

(Edmonds, WA) – Edmonds resident and UW graduate, Michelle Rockstead, has been appointed Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) by the Hekinan Board of Education in association with the Edmonds Sister City Commission. As an ALT, Michelle will be responsible for teaching English to students at five middle schools in Hekinan, Japan. She wants to use this opportunity to “cultivate the kids’ interest in building strong relationships with people from different parts of the world”.

It will be a return visit for Michelle who first went to Japan as a delegate with the 2013 Edmonds Sister City Commission Adult Exchange. She has volunteered with the Commission by hosting Japanese students, coordinating student volunteers and serving as the Commission’s Student Representative for two years. Commission President, Pam Erickson, notes, “We are thrilled the program encouraged one of our delegates to continue learning about Japanese culture and language throughout high school and college and now will provide her an opportunity to live and work in Japan.”

The Commission has coordinated the exchange of **over 500** people between Edmonds and Hekinan in the past 29 years. There are numerous options for getting involved in this unique program:

For adults

- ➡ Serve as a volunteer Commissioner <http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-get-involved.html>
- ➡ Chaperone the student exchange in July 2017 (applications due Jan. 13, 2017)
<http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-exchange-programs.html>

For students

- ➡ Serve as the Student Representative on the Commission <http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-get-involved.html>
- ➡ Travel to Japan as part of the Summer 2017 student exchange (applications due Feb. 13, 2017)
<http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-exchange-programs.html>

For more information on the Commission and these opportunities, please visit the Sister City webpage at <http://www.edmondswa.gov/sister-city-get-involved.html> or contact Carolyn LaFave at 425.771.0247 / carolyn.lafave@edmondswa.gov.