

# Meet Adel Sefrioui

*Introduction by Grace Chien*

I am pleased to introduce Adel Sefrioui, our newest Young Rotary Leader. He has worked as a middle school teacher, started a non profit mentoring program, graduated from law school, passed the bar exam, started a charter school, and a real estate development company, all in the space of a decade.

A native of Kirkland, Adel attended the UW where he earned a degree in political science. He chose to defer a government job offer in DC and instead signed up with Teach For America where he worked for three years in Chicago teaching middle school english and social studies. This experience ignited a passion to devote his life towards improving the education system.



Returning to Seattle he decided to go to law school in part to make his mother happy and in part to have a degree that offered the versatility to allow him to continue his work in education, even while attending law school. During his first year at Seattle U law school Adel started an after school college mentoring program at Cleveland High School. During his second year he wrote and submitted the application to start a charter school. During his third year the charter school application was approved. So, upon graduating he turned his attention to starting the school. In 2015, Excel Public Charter School opened its doors in Kent to 150 sixth and seventh graders. The school concept was structured around a model emphasizing quality instruction through ongoing professional development for teachers – 40 times more is provided for teacher training than public schools; a longer school day that runs from 8 – 4:30; and a STEM focused curriculum. Although the student body was comprised largely of students from low income families, speaking english as a second language, or with special needs, the school's test scores after one year of operation were over 10% higher than the district average.

Proving that the model was successful, Adel decided to step away from the school and start a new venture – PNW Development, a real estate development company with a focus on affordable multi-family housing to fulfill his vision of linking community with schools.

Adel is engaged to be married to Anna Rendes, whom he met while in law school. He and Anna enjoy the outdoors, in fact their first date was hiking at Mount Si and Mount Si is where he proposed three years later.

Adel is sponsored by his dad Faouzi Sefrioui and seconded by Michael Verchot. Please join me in welcoming our newest Young Rotary Leader, Adel Sefrioui.