



MEDIA RELEASE

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association
1970 Oakcrest Avenue, Suite 204
Roseville, MN 55113
Contact: Simone LaBonté, Communication Manager
952.297-8672

Apple Valley Principal, Christine Evans, Receives Professional Leadership Award



Christine Evans

(Roseville, MN, February 22, 2024) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognized Christine Evans, principal of Southview Elementary, ISD 196-Rosemount, Eagan, Apple Valley School District, with the MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA's South Suburban Division. Principals are responsible for promoting a positive school culture, guiding instruction, and providing leadership. Active in MESPA for over 10 years, Principal Evans has served MESPA leadership on the legislative committee, the membership committee, and as South Suburban division. She was recognized by colleagues statewide on February 8, 2024, at the Mespys, the premier elementary principal celebration of the year celebrated during MESPA Institute, the annual statewide convention of Minnesota's elementary and middle-level principals.

Principal Evans notes, "Receiving the Division Leadership Award from MESPA is such a compliment from the incredible community I've been lucky enough to serve this year. It's more than just an award; it's a testament to the amazing friendships, connections across Minnesota, and the growth we've all experienced together. Being part of MESPA has been an integral part of my life as a principal, and leading our South Suburban division has been an absolute honor. As elementary principals, we have the best job in the world! This award symbolizes the collective dedication of all those who've supported our vision as school leaders in Minnesota."

Tom Benson, principal of Pilot Knob STEM Magnet School and president-elect of the South Suburban Division, emphasized, "Christine Evans is a fantastic MESPA South Suburban President. She has set up a variety of great professional development activities for our MESPA principals."

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2023 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Michelle Krell, MESPA Executive Director, congratulated the award winners, "The MESPA Division Leadership Award goes to principals who demonstrate exemplary leadership within their schools, communities, and our association. They embody transformational leadership, propelled by genuine care and dedication to their students, staff, and communities. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment significantly enrich our association."

2024 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award Recipients

- **MESPA Central Division** - Jennifer Olson, Humphrey and Winsted Elementary Schools, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Public Schools
- **MESPA Northern Division** – Kelsey Johnson, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Elementary, Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District
- **MESPA Western Division** – Chris Ellingson, Hawley Elementary, Hawley Public Schools
- **MESPA East Suburban Division** – Maura Weyandt, Edgerton Elementary, Roseville Area Schools
- **MESPA West Suburban Division** – Eduardo Navidad, Alice Smith Elementary, Hopkins Public Schools
- **MESPA North Suburban Division** – Jack Shields, DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science, Anoka-Hennepin School District

- **MESPA South Suburban Division** – Christine Evans, Southview Elementary, Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School District
- **MESPA Northeast Division** – Clayton Linder, East Rapids and West Rapids Elementary Schools, Grand Rapids School District
- **MESPA Southeast Division** – Nick Jurrens, Jefferson Elementary, Fairbault Public Schools
- **MESPA Southwest Division** – Doreen Oelke, South Elementary, Saint Peter Public Schools
- **MESPA Saint Paul Division** – Sarah Lightner, Groveland Park, Saint Paul Public Schools
- **MESPA Minneapolis Division** – Vicki Turner, Kenny Elementary School, Minneapolis Public School District
- **Retired Principals of MESPA** – Jim Hoogheem

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The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) is the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle level principals, dedicated to connecting, developing, and providing resources for principals, and serving as a leading voice for Minnesota education.