



MEDIA RELEASE

**Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association**

1970 Oakcrest Avenue, Suite 204

Roseville, MN 55113

Contact: Simone LaBonté, Communications Manager

952.297-8672

## **Hopkins Principal, Eduardo Navidad, Receives Professional Leadership Award**



*Eduardo Navidad*

*(Roseville, MN, February 29, 2024)* – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognizes Eduardo Navidad, principal of Alice Smith Elementary in Hopkins Public Schools, with the MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA's West Suburban Division. Principals are responsible for promoting a positive school culture, guiding instruction, and providing leadership. Principal Navidad 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 Navidad notes, "I'm honored to receive this leadership award and represent our West Suburban division and Hopkins Public Schools. I want to also recognize that it takes a team. At Alice Smith Elementary, I'm humbled to work alongside caring educators that help our scholars grow their hearts and minds each and everyday. A phenomenal office team that bridges our school and home and makes every family feel seen and heard. An amazing custodial and nutrition team that provides our school family with a safe place to call home and nutritious meals to fill our tummies and hearts. And finally, our paraprofessional superstars that provide our scholars with the support they need to succeed. Being part of the Alice Smith family has been the highlight of my career and I'm excited to continue to transform the educational experience so that each scholar has the skills and tools they need to be the drivers of their own future!"

Jeff Radel, principal of Glen Lake Elementary and West Suburban Division's Co-President, emphasized, "Eduardo demonstrates bold, courageous leadership for Alice Smith Elementary and Hopkins Schools. He led the launch of the Juntos Spanish Immersion program 3 years ago. He is a tenacious advocate for equity to ensure all students are successful."

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, charter school in Ham Lake.
- **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

-- end --

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.