



MEDIA RELEASE

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

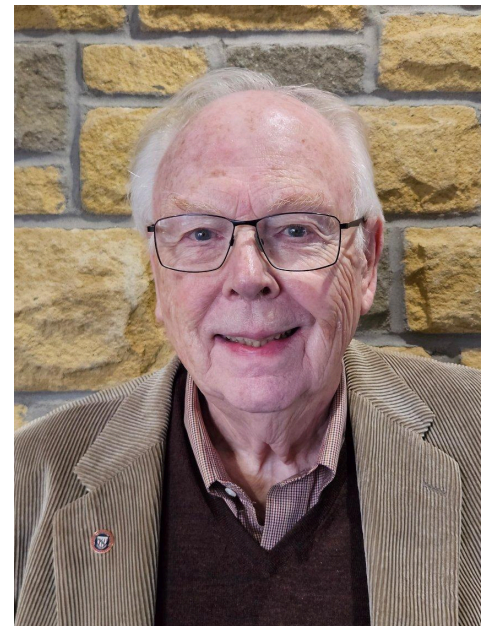
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Osseo Principal, Jim Hoogheem, Receives Professional Leadership Award



(Roseville, MN, February 29, 2024) –

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognizes Jim Hoogheem, retired principal from Osseo School District, with the MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for the Retired Principals of MESPA (RPMs). Principals are responsible for promoting a positive school culture, guiding instruction, and providing leadership. Hoogheem 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.

Hoogheem notes, "It's an honor to receive this award. MESPA was always important to me when working, and now, when retired RPM has kept me in contact with MESPA, colleagues, and

continued professional growth.”

Over the years, Hoogeem has not only exemplified excellence in educational leadership but has also left an indelible mark on the profession. He was the National Distinguished Principal from Minnesota in 2003, one of the most prestigious awards a principal can achieve. As a trailblazer, he opened a school in Osseo, Fernbrook Elementary in 1988 and served there for 17 years. He also played a pivotal role as a mentor in the new principal mentorship program, nurturing and guiding the next generation of educational leaders. His dedication and commitment were further acknowledged through his inclusion in the prestigious 25-Year Club, the precursor to the Retired Principals of Mespa (RPMs). In retirement, Mr. Hoogeem continues to contribute his wealth of experience and knowledge as an active volunteer with the RPMs, ensuring the ongoing success of educational leadership in the community. Jim Hoogeem's legacy as a leader, mentor, and volunteer will undoubtedly endure, inspiring future generations in the field of education.

Margo Mann, RPM President, emphasizes, “Jim Hoogheem is a founding member of the Retired Principals of MESPA. Prior to RPM Jim served in various roles in MESPA. He recently completed a successful year as RPM secretary. RPM is grateful for his years of faithful service. He deserves to be honored with the RPM Leadership Award.”

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, Faribault 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, retired from Osseo School District

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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.