



MEDIA RELEASE

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

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Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Principal, Kelsey Johnson, Receives Professional Leadership Award



Kelsey Johnson

(Roseville, MN, February 29, 2024) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognizes Kelsey Johnson, Principal of Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Elementary in Warren-Alvarado-Oslo School District, with the MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA's Northern Division. Principals are responsible for promoting a positive school culture, guiding instruction, and providing leadership. Principal Johnson 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 Johnson notes, "I am truly honored to represent the northern regional elementary principals of Minnesota. It has always been my passion to serve students. Doing so, I have had the pleasure of working with amazing educators, community members, and local leaders in the northern region. I have always sincerely believed in the phrase 'it takes a village.' That comes with acknowledging that my experiences and accomplishments thus far have not been mine alone, but a shared effort. My greatest aspiration is that I continue to inspire and support my village as much as they do me."

One of Johnson's colleagues and division members, emphasizes, "Kelsey has been a very impactful leader for our Northern Division! She continually supports other principals through answering questions or helping to guide them where to find support. She truly leads by example and her positive attitude is contagious."

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

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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.