



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

1970 Oakcrest Ave, Suite 204
Roseville, MN 55113
952-297-8670

For more information, contact:

Brett Lobben, 2024 Minnesota NAESP Nat'l. Outstanding Asst. Principal, 952-975-8884

Ashley Farrington, Selection Committee Chair, 763-745-5310

Simone LaBonté, MESPA PR & Engagement Manager, 952-297-8672

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Brett Lobben, Eden Prairie Schools, Selected NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal™ from Minnesota

(Roseville, MN, Dec. 14, 2023) – Brett Lobben, the esteemed assistant principal of Prairie View Elementary School within the Eden Prairie School District, has been recognized as Minnesota's 2024 NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal. This prestigious accolade, presented jointly by the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), highlights Lobben's exceptional dedication and leadership in the field of education.



Expressing his gratitude, Lobben stated, "I am truly honored to be named the Minnesota NAESP National Outstanding Assistant Principal. While I thank MESPA & NAESP for the wonderful acknowledgment, this award is really a testament to the inspiring people I work with each and every day and our collective commitments to risk-taking, continuous learning, and always doing what's best for kids."

Dr. Robb Virgin, the Executive Director of Learning and Innovation within the Eden Prairie Superintendent's Executive Cabinet Team, commended Lobben's outstanding capabilities as an assistant principal. "I was struck by his pedagogical knowledge, empathy, careful listening, drive and strategic approach. [...] He has the rare combination of skills needed to

build leadership in others, create a data-driven culture, be a champion for students and promote innovation across the school and system."

Among Lobben's notable achievements is the establishment of MESPA's Assistant/Associate Principal (AP) Professional Learning Community (PLC), which has significantly impacted leadership development across various schools statewide. Reflecting on this initiative, Lobben humbly shared, "The AP PLC provided a safe space for members to be a resource for each other as we navigate and process situations specific to the AP role. I continue to receive detailed feedback from members on how the AP PLC has made a difference in their work."

Dr. Michelle Krell, the Executive Director of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA), applauded Lobben's outstanding leadership, stating, "Brett Lobben embodies the essence of exemplary leadership. His vision of a Professional Learning Community for APs across our state has not only elevated the standard of APs but has also served as a space where APs can connect and build community. Brett's commitment to fostering collaborative environments and driving meaningful change resonates profoundly within our educational community."

One of Lobben's best practices is his method of conducting teacher observations. Beginning with fostering strong relationships built on trust, Lobben adopts a strengths-based approach. He initiates coaching conversations by emphasizing strengths, engages in reflective questioning, fosters a culture of continuous improvement, and invests in nurturing relationships. "...I build trust in small interactions that occur over time: the small notes of acknowledgement and appreciation that are left in a classroom, the quick conversations in the hall, and by seeking out that one voice that has not been heard. These small details can be easily overlooked in our fast-paced school environments, but they also go a long way to building trust."

With over 26 years of experience in education, including roles as a music teacher, q-comp instructional coach, and a research, evaluation, and assessment coordinator, Lobben's journey led him to assume the role of assistant principal at Forest Hills Elementary in 2013 before joining Prairie View Elementary in 2020. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Lawrence University, a Master of Arts in Education from Hamline University, an Education Specialist degree from the University of St. Thomas, and is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Concordia University.

Established in 2011, the National Outstanding Assistant Principal™ program aims to recognize and honor exemplary assistant principals and prepare them for future leadership roles. This program promotes educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade (PreK-8) schooling and calls attention to the fundamental importance of the assistant principal. NAESP will share their successes and best practices in a practical document for other principals to utilize.

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MESPA is the professional association of Minnesota's elementary and middle level principals. With the vision to "be the premiere resource for preparing today's principals for tomorrow and a strong leading voice for public education" and a statewide membership of 950 principals, MESPA has represented Minnesota's principals since 1950. MESPA is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 29,500 members nationwide.

MESPA Mission: Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association is dedicated to promoting and improving education for children and youth, strengthening the role as educational leader for elementary and middle level principals, and collaborating with partners in education to assist in achieving these goals.