

MEDIA RELEASE

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association
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Owatonna School District Assistant Superintendent Michelle Krell selected as the next Executive Director of the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA)



(electronic photo attached to this news release)

(Roseville, MN, March 17, 2023) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) is proud to announce the selection of Michelle Krell as its new Executive Director. With her extensive experience and outstanding dedication, Michelle is the perfect fit to lead the organization and serve elementary and middle school principals.

Krell brings with her 31 years of experience in education and has been the Director of Teaching and Learning and the Assistant Superintendent in the Owatonna Public School District for the past 6 years. Prior to her time in Owatonna, Michelle spent 13 years as a principal, starting her leadership career in Waseca, MN, where she and her staff led Hartley Elementary to become a National Blue Ribbon School. She then continued her career as an elementary principal at Kasson-Mantorville Elementary. Michelle then proudly led Kasson-Mantorville Middle School for two years before starting her tenure in Owatonna. Mrs. Krell's numerous accolades include the 2012 MESPA Leadership Award, the 2014 National Distinguished Principal, and the 2021 MASA Outstanding Central Office Administrator of the Year. Michelle is truly honored and humbled to be selected as MESPA's next Executive Director.

Michelle is enthusiastic, passionate, and dedicated to public education and will be a fierce advocate for the needs of principals. As a principal mentor, Michelle has the skills and knowledge to support other administrators in navigating the complex challenges and opportunities of the principalship. She believes that strong school leadership plays a critical role in student success and is passionate about inspiring, engaging, empowering, and supporting principals.

Krell reflects on her experiences with MESPA and how the organization has impacted her growth as a leader. "The words inspired, supported, valued, united, and belonging immediately come to mind," she says. "I am eager to give back by serving MESPA to enhance the support and opportunities for principals in Minnesota."

Michelle believes in creating trusting and collaborative relationships with all stakeholders. She is committed to supporting and providing a voice for Minnesota principals so that all students can receive the highest quality education and have equitable access to educational opportunities. As a visionary and strategic thinker, Krell is committed to finding new and innovative ways to increase membership, engage new members, and provide opportunities for networking, learning, and support.

"I am confident that my passion, drive, vision, and dedication to supporting principals across the state will strengthen MESPA and enhance the great work that is already being done," says Krell. "Together, we can continue to advance MESPA's efforts and make a lasting difference in the lives of principals and students alike."

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) is a statewide association serving a membership of approximately 1,000 elementary and middle-level principals and educational leaders from all career stages and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).