



MEDIA RELEASE

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Sibley East Public Schools Principal, Amanda Feterl, Receives Professional Leadership Award

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



Amanda Feterl

(Roseville, MN, April 21, 2022) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) recognized Amanda Feterl, principal of Sibley East Elementary School, Sibley East Public Schools, with the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA’s Southwest Division. Principals are responsible for a school’s instructional, school culture, and resource leadership. The award honors principals whose exemplary leadership and sustained efforts have made noteworthy contributions to the operation of effective school learning programs—improving education, their communities, and their profession. She was recognized by colleagues statewide on February 3, 2022, 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.

Feterl summed up her educational philosophy in a quote from James Comer: “No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.”

Feterl was nominated by Toni Baartman, principal at Pipestone Elementary School in the Pipestone Area Schools District. On behalf of MESPA Southwest Division principals, Baartman stated:

“[Amanda] has done a lot for our division as well as contributed to the schools she has worked in. She is involved and wants what is best for kids!”

Among her most significant career accomplishments, Feterl includes:

- Completing the Minnesota Principals Academy amidst the Covid-19 global pandemic.
- Serving on the Prairie Care Family Fund grant writing team that helped to secure 7 Mindsets SEL programming for the Le Sueur-Henderson School District from 2017 to 2021.
- Serving on the Vote “Yes” campaign for the successful bond referendum in the Sibley East School District in 2014.

Past honors and recognition received by Feterl include: 2014 WEM Regional Excellence in Education Award for Ethics in Education, 2013 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Finalist, 2012 Sibley East School District Teacher of the Year.

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Jon Millerhagen, MESPA Executive Director, congratulated the award winners by saying, “MESPA members who receive the Division Leadership Achievement Award are the strong foundations of their schools, their communities, and our association. They are transformational leaders who care deeply for their students. Our association benefits greatly from their knowledge, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment.”

2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award Recipients

- Sam Court, Rocori School District, Central Division
- Travis Barringer, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, East Suburban Division
- Renee Montague, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Division
- Amy Oliver, Anoka-Hennepin School District, North Suburban Division
- Clayton Lindner, Independent School District 318, Northeast Division
- Chris Bjerklie, Red Lake Falls Schools, Northern Division
- Nancy D. Páez, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul Division
- Josie Koivisto, Shakopee Public Schools, South Suburban Division
- Jared Groehler, Rochester Public Schools, Southeast Division
- Amanda Feterl, Sibley East Public Schools, Southwest Division
- Melissa Ness, Hopkins Public Schools, West Suburban Division
- Dana Christensen, Alexandria Public Schools, Western Division
- Elmer Koch, Retired Principals of MESPA

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MESPA works to: **Improve** education for Minnesota students through collaboration and advocacy; **Unite** current, past, and future licensed elementary and middle-level principals; **Encourage** and support a cooperative relationship between MESPA and other state/national organizations; and **Advocate** for the professional ethical, economic, and social welfare of its members.

MESPA Mission: The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association strives to be the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle-level principals and a strong leading voice for public education. MESPA is committed to ensuring a high quality education for all children through strengthening and enhancing the principal's role as educational leader in our schools.