



MEDIA RELEASE
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Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools Principal, Amy Oliver, Receives Professional Leadership Award

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



Amy Oliver

(Roseville, MN, April 21, 2022) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) recognized Amy Oliver, principal of Monroe Elementary, Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools, with the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA’s North Suburban 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.

Oliver summed up her educational philosophy in a quote from Ignacio Estrada, director of grants administration at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation: “If a child can’t learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn.”

Oliver was nominated by Anissa Cravens, principal at Brookside Elementary School in the Anoka-Hennepin Public Schools District. On behalf of MESPA North Suburban Division principals,

Cravens stated: “Amy is a visionary leader who is able to look at the big picture and plan steps to make it come to life. She sets a very clear path for her staff while doing the detail work behind the scenes. Her shared leadership model allows all stakeholder voices at the table when making decisions.”

Oliver identified equity practices as one of her most significant career accomplishments. She wrote: “I have a personal and professional passion for equity and although progress often seems small, seeing progress within my school gives me renewed energy to keep pushing forward. Having teachers gain awareness and improve their culturally responsive practices, increasing the ratio of teachers of color on our staff through Black Men Teach and other efforts, and coordinating the participation of many staff in the National Urban Alliance conference are accomplishments that show that we can and will continue to do better.”

Other significant accomplishments for Oliver include:

- The Monroe distance learning plan, which showcased the school’s commitment to students and collaboration.
- Providing high quality professional development to her staff.
- Monroe Elementary earning the Guinness world record for largest human gear.
- Monroe Elementary being named a Distinguished Project Lead the Way School (19-20, 20-21).
- Receiving the Anoka-Hennepin Above and Beyond Award.
- Being named a finalist for the 2021 Minnesota NAESP National Distinguished Principal® award.

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.