



MEDIA RELEASE

Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

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Minneapolis Public Schools Principal, E. Renee Montague, Receives Professional Leadership Award

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



E. Renee Montague

(Roseville, MN, April 21, 2022) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) recognized E. Renee Montague, principal of Cityview Community School, Minneapolis Public Schools, with the 2022 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA’s Minneapolis 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.

Montague summed up her educational philosophy in a quote from Charles Dickens: “No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”

Montague was nominated by Jim Clark, principal at Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center in the Minneapolis Public Schools District. On behalf of MESPA Minneapolis Division principals, Clark

stated: “It was awesome to watch her lead in a steadfast, child-centered manner. She leads with grace while demonstrating that balance of compassionate accountability. Seeing her in action inspired many to become principals.”

Among her most significant career accomplishments, Montague includes:

- Training and mentoring elementary student-teachers and teachers by interacting daily, actively listening, connecting, and sharing her own teaching practices—reflecting and refining; sharing stories, ideas; and problem-solving together.
- Training, coaching, and mentoring aspiring administrators throughout the years to become assistant principals and principals because she is able to focus on character and relationship.
- Opening a new Community School within the Minneapolis Public Schools District.

Montague also received a Certificate of Recognition from the Minnesota Department of Education as part of the Minnesota School-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Program between 2008 and 2010. She has a long history of service within MESPA, serving first as the chair of the Minneapolis Division Social Committee from 2009 to 2012, and has fulfilled the office of Treasurer for the Minneapolis Division for the past 10 years.

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.