



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Laura Sullivan, Principal of Anishinabe Academy, Honored with Leadership Award

[Roseville, MN, January 22, 2024] –Laura Sullivan, Principal of Anishinabe Academy, has been named the recipient of the Minneapolis Division Leadership Award. This honor recognizes her remarkable contributions to education and her dedication to fostering a school environment that uplifts Indigenous culture and supports student success.

Principal Sullivan has been an educator in Minneapolis Public Schools for 28 years, with 15 of those years spent as an elementary administrator. As principal of Anishinabe Academy, Sullivan is proud to lead a school that embraces the mission of "reclaiming, honoring, and celebrating the Indigenous peoples of this land, the Dakota and Anishinabe people." Under her guidance, the academy has grown into a space where students honor American Indian culture and language while receiving a high-quality education and authentic academic experiences.

"I am proud to lead a school that not only focuses on academic excellence but also serves as a space where Indigenous identity is honored and celebrated," said Sullivan. "Our vision is rooted in respect for the past, and it inspires our future."

Reflecting on her leadership journey, Sullivan shared a quote that encapsulates her educational philosophy: "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children," by Sitting Bull. This powerful message is a guiding principle for her work at Anishinabe Academy, where she fosters a collaborative, inclusive environment that prioritizes the well-being and academic success of every student.

In addition to her recent award, Sullivan has previously been recognized with the Minneapolis Educational Leadership Award through Twin Cities Achieve, highlighting her impact on educational leadership across the city. She has also been an active leader within the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) for the past 11 years, serving as the Minneapolis Division President twice, including her current term. She has also participated in the membership committee, welcoming new members to the association.

The Minneapolis Division Leadership Award celebrates Sullivan's commitment to the students, staff, and families of Anishinabe Academy, as well as her unwavering dedication to creating inclusive and culturally rich learning environments. Through her leadership, Anishinabe Academy continues to thrive as a place where students' cultural identities are uplifted, and their academic achievements are celebrated.

About Division Leadership Award

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2025 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. Michelle Krell, MESPA Executive Director, congratulated the award winners, "The MESPA Division Leadership Award goes to principals who demonstrate exemplary leadership within their schools, communities, and our association. They embody transformational leadership, propelled by genuine care and dedication to their students, staff, and communities. Their knowledge, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment significantly enrich our association."

About MESPA

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association is the premier leadership resource for elementary and middle level principals, dedicated to connecting, developing, and providing resources for principals, and serving as a leading voice for Minnesota education. MESPA is committed to ensuring an inclusive, high-quality academic, and social-emotional education for each child by strengthening, supporting, engaging, and celebrating principals as educational leaders in our schools.