



MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release

New Prague School District Principal, Patrick Pribyl, Receives Professional Leadership Award

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



Patrick Pribyl

(St. Paul, MN, February 2013) – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) recognized **Patrick A. Pribyl**, principal of Raven Stream Elementary School, New Prague School District, with the 2013 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. 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. He was recognized by colleagues statewide on February 7, 2013 at the MESPA Awards Banquet – held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington Hotel during the annual MESPA Institute, the statewide convention of Minnesota's elementary and middle level principals.

In his principalship, Pribyl is guided by the words of Marian Wright Edelman: "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it."

Pribyl was nominated by Wade Labatte, principal at Oak Hills Elementary School, Lakeville Public Schools. On behalf of MESPA Division South Suburban principals, Labatte stated: "Pat has been an influential leader in the South Suburban division of MESPA for many years. He has served as division president three times throughout his career. Pat is always willing to step up."

“Pat also served as an ideal mentor for me, and numerous other colleagues, in my role as president-elect for the South Suburban division,” WaBatte continued. “Pat is always there for me when I have question regarding the position, and for other inquiries that I have regarding the principal position. His experience and expertise provide me with guidance, encouragement, and reassurance. Integrity, honesty, and professionalism optimize Pat’s career as an elementary school principal.”

Among his most significant career accomplishments, Pribyl includes: MN School of Excellence, validation for Raven Stream Elementary School validation, 2012; MESPA South Suburban division Leadership Achievement Award, 2010; and MESPA Secretary/Treasurer (statewide board of directors position), 2007-2009.

Past honors and recognition received by Pribyl include: MN Department of Education, Reward School for Raven Stream Elementary, 2012; MESPA Southwest division president, 1997-1998; MESPA South Suburban division president, 2004-2005, 2010-2011; and MESPA Division Leadership Achievement award, Southwest division in 1999, South Suburban division in 2006.

MESPA members selected 12 of their peers to receive the 2013 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award. “Leadership is an elusive concept. Is leadership an art or a science? Should we evaluate the leader’s personal qualities? Or should we evaluate what the leader accomplishes, regardless of personality or leadership style? Successful principals serve their school and community. These men and women are leaders in our profession and truly represent the very best in Minnesota public schools,” said P. Fred Storti, MESPA executive director.

2013 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award Recipients

- **Nancy Antoine**, principal, Bridgewater Elementary, Northfield Public Schools
- **Bill Book**, principal, Pinewood Elementary, Mounds View Public Schools
- **Karen Coblentz**, principal, North Intermediate, St. Peter Public Schools
- **Amy Galatz**, principal, King Elementary, Deer River Schools
- **Carolyn Hartwigsen**, principal, Westwood Elementary, Bloomington Public Schools
- **Jeff Lund**, principal, Marshall County Central Elementary, Marshall County Central Schools
- **Jim Meyer**, principal, Elm Creek Elementary, Osseo Area Schools
- **Pat Pribyl**, principal, Raven Stream Elementary, New Prague Area Schools
- **Joe Rossow**, principal, Michael Dowling Urban Environmental Magnet, Minneapolis Public Schools

- **Sam Skaaland**, principal, Lake Park Audubon Elementary, Lake Park Audubon Schools
- **Eric Skanson**, principal, Cold Spring Elementary, Ricori Schools
- **Teresa Vibar**, principal, Highland Park Elementary, St. Paul Public Schools

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MESPA is the professional association of Minnesota's elementary and middle level principals. With the vision to "be the premiere resource for preparing today's principals for tomorrow and a strong leading voice for public education" and a statewide membership over 950 principals, MESPA has represented Minnesota's principals since 1950. MESPA is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 29,500 members nationwide.

MESPA Mission Statement

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association is dedicated to promoting and improving education for children and youth, strengthening the role as educational leader for elementary and middle level principals, and collaborating with partners in education to assist in achieving these goals.