



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 12, 2010

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**MINNESOTA ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION (MAEF) SCHOOL
SPOTLIGHT AWARD WINNERS FOR 2009 ANNOUNCED**

ROSEVILLE – Ten schools received the *2009 Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation School Spotlight Award* for academic excellence and student success as evidenced by their students' achievements.

"It is a privilege to recognize schools that are making great strides toward closing the achievement gap in Minnesota," said Melissa Malen, Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation chair. "Spotlight Award-winning schools have used data-driven and student-centered approaches to develop unique curriculum, student support programs and staff development opportunities that in combination have brought their students success. The impact of the achievements made by their students will last a lifetime."

MAEF awarded the following schools the *2009 MAEF School Spotlight Award* in recognition of academic excellence and to celebrate the success evidenced by their students' achievements. The award shines a spotlight on a school's curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development that addresses student needs and works toward success for all. All Minnesota schools that participate in Minnesota's statewide assessments are eligible to apply.

2009 Recipients:

Academy for Science & Agriculture School
Becky Meyer, Director

Battle Lake School District
Jeff Drake, Principal
Dr. Charles Cheney, Superintendent

Coon Rapids High School
Jeffrey McGonigal, Principal
Anoka-Hennepin School District # 11
Dennis Carlson, Superintendent

Dassel Elementary School
Rob Nudell, Principal
Dassel/Cokato School District # 466
Jeff Powers, Superintendent

Eagan High School
Dr. Polly Reikowski, Principal
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan School Dist. # 196
Jane Berenz, Superintendent

Eden Valley-Watkins School District # 463
Bruce Kiehn, Secondary Principal
Larry Peterson, Superintendent

Irondale High School
Scott Gengler, Principal
Mounds View School District # 621
Dan Hoverman, Superintendent

Norman County West Elementary School
Ollen Church, Principal
Norman County West School District # 2527
Ollen Church, Superintendent

Park High School
Dr. Efe Agbamu, Principal
South Washington County School District # 833
Mark Porter, Superintendent

North Branch Middle School
Todd Tetzlaff, Principal
North Branch School District # 138
Dr. Deb Henton, Superintendent

The Minnesota Academic Excellence Foundation (MAEF) is a non-profit organization that promotes academic excellence in Minnesota public and nonpublic schools and communities through public-private partnerships. MAEF advocates, promotes and recognizes academic excellence in all Minnesota elementary and secondary students, schools and communities.

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