



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association**  
1970 Oakcrest Avenue, Suite 204  
Roseville, MN 55113

**Contacts:** Sarah Olander, PR & Engagement Manager  
952.297.8672; sarah@mespa.net  
Trisha Mariotti, principal, Roosevelt Elementary  
218.930.0792; tmariotti@detlakes.k12.mn.us

## **Detroit Lakes Public Schools Principal, Trisha Mariotti, Receives Professional Leadership Award**

(electronic photo attached to this news release)



*Trisha Mariotti*

*(Roseville, MN, May 6, 2021)* – The Minnesota Elementary School Principals’ Association (MESPA) recognized Trisha Mariotti, principal of Roosevelt Elementary, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, with the 2021 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award for MESPA’s Western 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 April 15, 2021 at the MESPYS, the premier elementary principal celebration of the year celebrated via [YouTube livestream](#).

Mariotti summed up her educational philosophy with a quote from Dr. James Comer, Yale School of Medicine: “No significant learning occurs without a significant relationship.”

Mariotti was nominated by Judith Brockway, principal at New York Mills Elementary School in the New York Mills School District and President of the Western Division. On behalf of MESPA Western Division principals, Brockway stated: “I am nominating Trisha Mariotti for the Western Division Leadership Award because I know her to be a passionate and dedicated educator who is dedicated to promoting and implementing best practices in education for her teachers, staff, and students! She is

dedicated to promoting a love of reading at her school and recently has researched and implemented practices to deal with trauma and its effect on students.”

Among her most significant career accomplishments, Mariotti includes:

- Returning to the building where she taught as an administrator...when her oldest child began Kindergarten.
- Continuing a commitment to build a safe, supportive, high-performing, and fun environment for all staff to combat staff turnover. In 2016, the certified staff turnover rate at Roosevelt Elementary School was 18%. It has slowly decreased to 11%, 9%, and now 5% in the 2020-21 school year.
- Guiding her building in becoming a trauma-informed school. They adjust practices yearly, as they collectively identify needs and recognize areas of improvement.

MESPA members selected 13 of their peers to receive the 2021 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.”

### **2021 MESPA Division Leadership Achievement Award Recipients**

- Mary Holmberg, Paynesville Area Schools, Central Division
- Kenny Newby, Forest Lake Area Schools, East Suburban Division
- Jamil Payton, Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Division
- Christopher Forrest, Anoka-Hennepin School District, North Suburban Division
- Darren Sheldon (Ed. D.), Duluth Public Schools, Northeast Division
- Ami C. Aalgaard, Bemidji Area Schools, Northern Division
- Chreese C. Jones, St. Paul Public Schools, St. Paul Division
- Bret Domstrand, Lakeville Area Schools, South Suburban Division
- Dr. Cindy Hansen, Pine Island Public Schools, Southeast Division
- Liam Dawson, St. James Public Schools, Southwest Division
- Dr. Heather Hanson, Robbinsdale Area Schools, West Suburban Division
- Trisha Mariotti, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, Western Division
- Dr. Carole Gupton, Retired Principals of MESPA

-- end --

**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.