

**MEDIA RELEASE**



**CONTACT:**  
**Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association**  
**Kelsey Gantzer, Communications Manager**  
651-999-7313

**Richfield S.T.E.M. School**  
**Dr. Joey Page, Principal**  
612-798-6601



*Dr. Joey Page*

**RICHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRINCIPAL NAMED 2017 SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

*(St. Paul, MN – January 6, 2017)* – **Dr. Joey Page**, principal of Richfield S.T.E.M. School (R-S.T.E.M.) in Richfield, MN, has been named the **2017 Science and Mathematics Elementary and Middle Level Principal of the Year**.

Created through a partnership between the Science Museum of Minnesota and the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA), the award recognizes the vital importance of fostering lifelong science literacy and honors the key role principals play in developing a culture that encourages and celebrates student interest in math and science.

In reviewing applications for this year's recipient, the award committee looked for evidence of the nominees' support of professional development and coaching for the teachers in their schools, active partnerships with other organizations, efforts to apply math and science standards to curriculum and provide support materials, support of out-of-school as well as in-school experiences, inclusion of families, and evidence of other creative ways of fostering interest in math and science.

Dr. Page “is driven to encourage and celebrate science and math literacy, and strives to motivate the teachers, staff, and students around him to reach their full potential,” wrote Cindy Lybeck, R-S.T.E.M. Instructional Coach, in her recommendation of Page.

Page worked with other district educators to create R-S.T.E.M., which opened its doors in 2010 to provide new educational opportunities for 800 kindergarten through fifth grade students in Richfield. Prior to the school opening, Page in collaboration with other district leaders worked with the St. Catherine University staff to learn more about their S.T.E.M. Education certification program and to cultivate a robust, first-of-its-kind talent development plan for teachers. Between 2010 and 2012, 45 teachers earned certification in S.T.E.M. education, which had a positive impact on the school’s identity and success.

The teachers at R-S.T.E.M. continue to receive professional development through partnerships Page set up with The Mayo Clinic and The University of Minnesota via the InSciEd Out Foundation. This program, now in its second year, provides sustained teacher development by allowing teachers to partner with scientists to write science modules for their classrooms. In addition, teachers continue to partner with the scientists as resources to update the modules with new research, aid in students’ inquiry-based experiments, and call on them to help answer students’ questions.

Since its opening in 2010, R-S.T.E.M. students have tripled science proficiency test scores. In addition to significantly higher overall proficiency rates, minority students are near or above proficiency rates as compared to the rest of Minnesota and English Language Learners proficiency rates have surpassed the state scores four out of the last five years.

The students at R-S.T.E.M. have benefited through the established partnerships with the Science Museum of Minnesota, The Works Museum, and Wood Lake Nature Center. Students are also able to showcase their learning each year at the school’s Science Expo, an event where students highlight the projects, experiments, and designs they have worked on and learned about throughout the year to their families and community members.

“Dr. Page strives to find ways for R-S.T.E.M. staff to engage in culturally relevant pedagogy while maintaining a deep commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” wrote Lybeck. “He has led the implementation of several sustaining initiatives, including Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, and ENVoY (Educational Non-Verbal Yardsticks). With his leadership and support, these programs have helped our school cultivate and grow learning environments where students feel safe, validated, and accepted. Dr. Page reminds us that positive relationships between students and teachers can determine students’ academic success or failure.”

Richfield School Board Chair, Christine Maleck, has known Page since her son – who is now a high school senior – was in kindergarten at Sheridan Hills Elementary where Page was the principal at the time. After seeing Page’s work in multiple capacities – as a parent of a student, as the PTO chair, and now as the school board chair – Maleck feels a quote by Ronald Regan exemplifies Page: “The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.” She has seen this quote come to life in the opportunities Page provides the staff so they can better serve the students. “Page has worked to create partnerships with many organizations and has been the driving force behind the W.O.W. [World of Wonder] Room at Richfield S.T.E.M., where students can learn about coding on a computer and then apply that way of thinking to physical, hands-on experiences,” said Maleck.

Lybeck summed up her recommendation of Page by writing, “Dr. Page continues to show his commitment, dedication and support to Richfield Public Schools as he sets high standards for instruction and student achievement.”

As the 2017 Science and Mathematics Elementary Principal of the Year, Page will be recognized during The MESPYS, MESPA’s annual principal honors celebration on Thursday, February 2, 2017, in Bloomington, MN. Alison Brown, President and CEO of the Science Museum of Minnesota, will present the award. In addition, R-S.T.E.M. students and staff will receive complimentary Science Museum of Minnesota education programming.

###

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 those goals. For more information, visit the association's website at [www.mespa.net](http://www.mespa.net).

The Science Museum of Minnesota has a 100-year history of bringing science learning to life through hands-on exhibits, giant screen films, and unparalleled educational opportunities for all ages. For more information about the wide range of education programs for school groups, teachers, kids, families, and adults, visit the museum's website at [www.smm.org/educationprograms/](http://www.smm.org/educationprograms/).