

LEARNING MATTERS

May 12, 2014

Agency News

Minnesota's 2014 Teacher of the Year!

Tom Rademacher, Minnesota's 2014 Teacher of the Year, teaches English at the Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resources (FAIR) School.

Known at FAIR for his unwavering commitment to students, Rademacher explains, "Every class I teach and every training I lead is intended to understand where students are, help them focus on where they want to be, and give them every tool, intervention and opportunity necessary to get there." Education Minnesota, the statewide educators' union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program. [Read News Release on EdMN website.](#)

Congratulations Michelle Krell!

The Kasson-Mantorville Elementary Principal is Minnesota's National Distinguished Principal for 2014. The prestigious award, presented by Minnesota Elementary School Principal's Assoc. (MESPA) and National Assoc. of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) honors exemplary elementary and middle school principals. One of Krell's trademarks is her daily rounds to say "Good Morning" to each class. Krell explains, "Visibility in the halls, lunchroom and classrooms create opportunity to communicate with every student and staff member and to encourage and empower them to achieve their very best. [Visit MESPA website to learn more.](#)

Help for Your Postsecondary Planning

With rising tuition costs, it is more important than ever to think through postsecondary education choices, such as which school to attend and what field of study to pursue. Unfortunately, outside of population statistics and anecdotes, not much information is available about the job outcomes for graduates. How quickly do they find work? Do they remain in Minnesota? How much do jobs pay after graduation and how stable is employment in their fields of study?

Minnesota is one of 29 states participating in the Workforce Data Quality Initiative designed in part, to follow students through school into the workforce and provide statistics on their employment outcomes. [Read Measuring Outcomes for Graduates on the DEED website.](#)

\$45M for School-Linked Mental Health Services

Minnesota Department of Human Services Commissioner Jesson was joined by fellow Governor's Children's Cabinet leaders: Education Commissioner Cassellius and Health Commissioner Ehlinger at Thomas Edison High School to announce \$45.5 million in grants to increase access to mental health services for students. "When a child is struggling with life's many challenges, it is critical our schools have the tools necessary to provide support," Cassellius said. [Read news release on DHS website.](#)

Fun Facts and Dates in May

May 12-16 - Children's Book Week

May 15 - International Day of Families

May 18 - International Museum

On This Day in History...

May 21 - Amelia Earhart Flew Solo Across the Atlantic (1932)

May 30 - Lincoln Memorial Dedicated (1927)

Education in the News

Minneapolis/Crystal Educator Named Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Thomas Rademacher, an English teacher in a west metro public school program with a focus on the arts, was named the 2014 Minnesota Teacher of the Year. [Read full Pioneer Press story.](#)

At Elizabeth Hall School in Minneapolis, Veteran Teachers Make a Difference

Trickling in from their buses, the students in Marcia Wyatt's class stop and check the easel where she's posted her daily greeting. [Read full story at StarTribune.com](#)

The Benefits of Free and Reduced-Price Lunch Programs

Thousands of students throughout our area rely on the fact that they will receive food at school, but many of those families have a tough time even affording that. [Read article on KIMT website.](#)

Now, Metro Schools Can 'Grow Their Own' Special Ed Teachers

Samantha Ovadal dreams of becoming a special education teacher. The only things standing in her way are the time and money it would take to pursue her master's degree. [Read full story at StarTribune.com](#)

Recent BloggED posts

Out of the Classroom and Into the Woods

Talk about hands on. Students in the Edgewood Middle School's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) class have taken their education out of the classroom and out into nature. The students worked with their teacher, Jim Bias, to get a

nearby forest enrolled in the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) School Forest Program!
[Read full story on BloggED.](#)

Upcoming Events

We Day Minnesota 2014-2015!

Last year, 450 schools from throughout Minnesota took part in We Act by committing to one local and one global act of service. We Act is a year-long educational program that empowers young people to discover the causes they care about and take action to make a difference. Through service-based learning and engagement, students develop the skills to succeed academically, in the workforce, and as active citizens.

At Minnesota's first ever We Day event last fall, Queen Noor of Jordan, Martin Luther King III, the Jonas Brothers, Governor Dayton and more joined in as we celebrated the incredible ability we each have to change the world. I am thrilled to announce we are going to do it again next year -- November 12th -- at the Xcel Center. [Visit Free the Children website to learn more and sign-up!](#)

Hiring Our Heroes Event

If you know a veteran who is looking for work or if you are a veteran looking for a good job, plan on attending the 2014 Hiring Our Heroes Veterans Event on Tuesday, May 13 at the Rochester International Event Center, 7333 Airport View Road SW. The workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. and the hiring fair is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Connect with employers offering a diverse array of positions in several industries, attend workshops on resume writing and interviewing, learn tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs and how to translate your military skills into current job market needs. [Visit HiringOurHeroes.org for free online registration.](#)

Thank You for reading Learning Matters. [Send questions or comments to L Hildebrant.](#)