

Education Minnesota

St. Paul bilingual family liaison named Education Support Professional of the Year

For more information, contact:

[Chris Williams](#)

651-292-4816 (work)

651-247-5539 (cell)

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, Nov. 20, 2019 – Education Minnesota is celebrating American Education Week by honoring Yasmin Muridi, a bilingual family liaison at Four Seasons A+ Elementary in St. Paul, as the 2019-20 Education Minnesota Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year.

While there is no “typical day” for her, Muridi says, but every morning she checks in with her students to make sure they made it to school and are doing well. She always has her phone with her, as she receives calls from parents at all hours of the day and night.

She has helped parents find the urgent care clinic closest to their home, coordinate transportation, and works to build the bridge between home and school.

“This fulfills my life to see parents have the right resources,” Muridi said. “I connect them with what they need, but then I also help them be independent and be an advocate for their kids.”

As the new Minnesota ESP of the Year, Muridi will receive a new Apple iPad and a \$1,000 honorarium. She will also be nominated for the National Education Association’s ESP of the Year and will receive an all-expenses paid trip to New Orleans for the awards ceremony in March.

“ESPs are often the first people that interact with our students each day and the last ones to say goodbye,” said Education Minnesota Vice President Bernie Burnham. “But Yasmin not only interacts with our students to make them feel welcome in her school, she makes sure their families feel like part of the school community. Yasmin’s work with the students and families of Four Seasons has a direct effect on their educational and personal success.”

Muridi is also involved in the district’s Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) conference program, and is active in her local union, the Saint Paul Federation of Educators. She sits on the bargaining team and is a trainer and participant in the union’s Parent Teacher Home Visit program. She is also



very active in multiple community organizations and works with the Citizens Academy of the Saint Paul Police Department.

“We can do our best teaching when we know Yasmin is there with us,” said Holly Magner, a science teacher at Four Seasons. “She has the bond and respect in the community. She is a partner in their education. They will learn more and feel a part of this community in the school, because she cares and will build that bridge.”

American Education Week, a national celebration of public education, runs from Nov. 18 through Nov. 22. Wednesday had been designated as Education Support Professionals Day to honor the people who keep schools running and students safe, healthy and ready to learn.

The winner of the Education Support Professional of the Year award is selected by a five-member selection committee that includes three leaders of Education Minnesota, the winner in the previous year and a representative of an external organization, which was United Educators Credit Union this year.

About Education Minnesota

Education Minnesota is the voice for professional educators and students. Education Minnesota’s members include teachers and education support professionals in Minnesota’s public school districts, faculty members at Minnesota’s community and technical colleges and University of Minnesota campuses in Duluth and Crookston, retired educators and student teachers. Education Minnesota is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association and AFL-CIO.

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