



Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association

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STEM Innovation Award 2023-24

Description: The STEM Innovation Award is presented in partnership with MESPA and the Science Museum of Minnesota. The award gives principals the opportunity to share innovative programs and/or projects in their schools. An “innovation database,” created from entries for the award, will be made available to MESPA members, helping schools across the state replicate their colleagues’ successes (see entries from previous years at mespa.net/STEMInnovation). The Science Museum of Minnesota will provide \$600 of programming to the recipient of the award, equivalent to a half day of School Outreach programming. In addition, the recipient will be recognized at the MESPA Institute awards banquet – The MESPYS – in February 2023.



Award FAQs:

- **Who can apply for the award?** Any Active Level MESPA Member may apply for the STEM Innovation Award.
- **Can my school submit more than one innovative program/project for consideration?** No, schools can only submit one innovative program/project per year.
- **What type of STEM Innovations can be submitted?** Any sustainable and/or growth-oriented program/project that encourages and celebrates STEM literacy can be submitted for consideration. Some examples are:
 - New learning opportunities for students
 - Different and innovative STEM teaching methods
 - Different and innovative forms of measuring STEM outcomes
 - STEM professional development and coaching opportunities for educators
 - In-School or Out-of-School STEM experience(s) for students
 - Engaging families or community partners in STEM curriculum

Timeline (Visit www.mespa.net/honors for exact dates each year)

- **December** – Award applications due to MESPA **December 9, 2023**. MESPA representatives and Science Museum Representative(s) review applications, select a winner.
- **January** – STEM Innovation Award winner announced. Press release sent out to the media. Winning award and runners-up posted to a new innovation database on the MESPA website. The Science Museum contacts the winning school principal with programming options.
- **February** – Winning principal accepts the award on behalf of the school at MESPA Institute awards ceremony (The MESPYS) in February 2024. A Science Museum representative presents the award.

Application Guidelines

What to include in the Application:

- School Name
- Principal Name
- Contact Information (Phone # and Email)
- Description of innovation and who it serves
- Your school's demographics
- How the innovation has impacted your school
 - Engagement with and excitement about STEM from students and/or families
 - Any available data demonstrating the impact
- Difficulties you encountered in its implementation
- Issues(s) another school might encounter in replicating this program
- How the innovation encourages diversity/inclusion in STEM
- The sustainability of the innovation and any potential for growth
- Photos of your STEM Innovation in action (*not required but highly recommended*)

Send completed applications to mespa@mespa.net by **December 9, 2023**.

Judging Criteria:

- **25%** - Impact on School Community (solution or outcome-oriented)
- **25%** - Replicable
- **25%** - Inclusive and supports diversity
- **25%** - Sustainable and/or has potential for growth