



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MINNESOTA EARLY CHILDHOOD PROFESSIONALS RECOGNIZE

DANIELLE STEIN

The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) presents the Emerging Leader Award

St. Cloud, Minn., April 10, 2025 – **Danielle Stein was honored with a Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education 2025 Emerging Leader Award on April 10, 2025.** The award identifies rising leaders employed under five years in the fields of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and/or early childhood programming in public schools in Minnesota.

Ms. Stein is a rising leader in the field of parent education, serving in her third year as a licensed parent educator in the Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools, District 877 ECCE program. All the while Ms. Stein was working in the private and public sector and for a non-profit organization, she attended ECCE classes with her three children. It was when her Parent Educator decided to retire that she realized she wanted to work with families and give them the same validation and care she received all those years from ECCE.

One of Ms. Stein's coworkers said "she works to make sure that her parents are getting a quality, well-researched class. She puts in 110% every single time". Ms. Stein has accompanied parents to workshops on her own time because she knows attending will benefit the parent, and she has sat beside a parent learning English while she studied on the computer to ease her anxiety.

Ms. Stein brings excellence to her work as well as remaining active in the community by belonging to her children's school Parent Teacher Organization and co-leading her daughter's 4H group while raising chickens, harvesting honey and growing a full garden at her home.

Ms. Stein is a team player who offers support whether it's helping to set up a room or helping to resolve a mini-crisis or sharing resources. She takes the initiative to look at the program with a broad lens to discover ways to better serve families. That has resulted in some new offerings for the school year. Her dedication and leadership is not just about personal achievement, it is about uplifting those around her including the families, children and colleagues while advocating and advancing the field as a whole.

Ms. Stein believes that when parents are provided with a secure foundation in an adult community, they begin to form supportive relationships, feel safe to ask tough questions and develop their parenting philosophy. When asked what she sees for herself in the next ten years, Ms. Stein explained that she aims to collaborate with other early childhood professionals with the goal of championing ECCE and parent education to raise awareness about the importance of supporting families in the early years. We are so pleased that she is part of our future. Ms. Stein was recognized at the MNAFEE Annual Conference in St. Cloud on April 10, 2025.

About MNAFEE: The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) is a non-profit association promoting parent education, Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), and early childhood programming in public schools.

About the Emerging Leader Award: This Award identifies rising leaders employed under five years in the fields of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools in Minnesota. It recognizes and cultivates the talent of champions who have the potential to influence the field of early learning for years to come. The selected honoree will have demonstrated contributions that have started to influence beyond individual programs to organizations and communities, a proven passion for developing themselves and others, active engagement in efforts to elevate the early childhood field, and demonstrated persistence in their work to grow as leaders.

Nominees for the Emerging Leader Award must:

- Demonstrate contributions that have started to influence the lives of young children, parents, and/or families or other professionals beyond individual programs to organizations and communities
- Have a proven passion for developing themselves and others
- Show active engagement in efforts to elevate the the fields of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools
- Demonstrate persistence in their work to grow as leader
- Have been employed for under five years in the field of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools in Minnesota