



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADER SALLY NAULT-MAURER RECOGNIZED
The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) to present
the Award in Honor of Lois Engstrom, Founder Figure in
Minnesota's Early Childhood Professional Field



St Paul, Minn., August 4, 2022 – The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education announced the Lois Engstrom Leadership Award winner today. The award was created to recognize an individual who has made dynamic contributions to advance the goals and principles of parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools locally and throughout Minnesota.

Sally Nault-Maurer, Early Childhood Program Coordinator, was chosen as the Winner of the Lois Engstrom Leadership Award for 2022. Ms. Nault-Maurer is an exemplary leader and educator with Osseo Area Schools located in Hennepin County.

Ms. Nault-Maurer's career spans 38 years, all but two of them in school-based early childhood programs. Over those years, she has held a variety of positions: classroom assistant, early childhood teacher, screener, parent educator, special events/field trips, outreach, and coordinator. Ms. Nault-Maurer has also demonstrated her commitment to parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools through her involvement in The Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) where she has been a board member for more than a decade and a recent chair of the organization.

Ms. Nault-Maurer has led the department in Osseo Area Schools in developing innovative programming including online learning, new partnerships and creating offerings responsive to family and community needs. She is not afraid to challenge the status quo or have difficult conversations if it means improving programs for families. Throughout the pandemic, she maintained realistic expectations with an awareness of individual needs of family and staff. Because of her leadership in this time of many unknowns, the Osseo Area Schools Early Childhood Programs retained staff and continue to serve families in a variety of ways. Ms. Nault-Maurer says her hope is that her work impacts young children and parents by them experiencing relevant, meaningful content to achieve a simple goal--school and learning should be fun!

One goal of Ms. Nault-Maurer is for all families to feel welcome, seen and comfortable. She accomplishes this work through her commitment to creating equitable programming. "Sally has led equity work by being an example of one's own equity journey," according to nominator Eric Hanson. Ms. Nault-Maurer says that this work begins with her as an individual and adds, "I am committed to learning about race, to identify and challenge my personal biases, and to identify and change practices that uphold racially predictable opportunity gaps."

Ms. Nault-Maurer's reach goes beyond the families and children in her district as she helps to support staff and others in the early childhood field. She sees the potential in staff and mentors them to develop their best skills and achieve their goals. She is willing to help other leaders in the field excel at their jobs as well; she provides resources and support to other new coordinators to help them be successful. Her leadership within MNAFEE helped establish new guidelines for membership and set a path for advocacy efforts within the legislature.

Families in Osseo Area Schools as well as across the state of Minnesota will experience a lasting impact as a result of Ms. Nault-Maurer's dedication.

About the Lois Engstrom Leadership Award: Lois Engstrom was instrumental in the design, development and statewide expansion of the public school Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program for all families with children from birth to kindergarten and their parents. She provided wise and inspirational leadership for this and other family and early learning initiatives including School Readiness over 25 years in her position at the Minnesota Department of Education. After retirement she shepherded founding of the Minnesota Association for Family and Early Education (MNAFEE) and helped build it into the organization it is today.

The Winner of the Lois Engstrom Leadership Award:

- Is a current or past member of MNAFEE
- Has five or more years of demonstrating strong leadership in the field of family and early education, particularly as it pertains to parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools in Minnesota
- Shows a career-long commitment to the field of family and early education, particularly as it pertains to parent education, Early Childhood Family Education and/or early childhood programming in public schools
- Has made a significant impact on the lives of young children, parents and/or families, and/or professionals in the field.
- Has had a statewide impact through their efforts to improve the lives of children, parents and/or families, and/or professionals in the field.

Ms. Nault-Maurer was recognized at the MNAEFEE August 4 Board Meeting.