



Colorado Department of Education – Communications Office
201 East Colfax Ave.
Room 103
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303-866-3898
Fax: 303-866-6938

Jan. 12, 2009

News Release

Kearney Middle School's Sophia Masewicz Named Title I Distinguished Principal

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the recipient of the Title I Distinguished Principal of the Year Award is Sophia Masewicz, principal of Kearney Middle School in Adams County School District 14.

Masewicz was nominated for the award by Janell Sueltz, interim chief academic officer for District 14. "Sophia's leadership is grounded in the philosophy that all students will learn," said Sueltz. "She constantly models and expects all educators to ask, 'What will we do when our students aren't succeeding?'"

Masewicz has served as principal for 15 years, five of which have been at Kearney. Kearney serves a diverse student population of which 88 percent of students are racial minority and 77.5 percent receive free or reduced lunch.

Masewicz was selected for this award in part because of Kearney's outstanding CSAP growth scores. Although Kearney is still on improvement, student median growth percentiles were 60.6 percent in reading and 62 percent in math from 2006-2008. These percentiles indicate "greater than typical or expected growth."

"Effective, focused building level leadership is fundamental to student success," said Pat Chapman, executive director of the Office of Federal Programs at CDE. "We are grateful for the opportunity to recognize Masewicz for her contribution to the exceptional gains made by Kearney Middle School students. The impact she has is impressive."

In addition to the Title I Distinguished Principal Award, Masewicz was also presented with a special legislative award on Monday, Jan. 12 at Kearney Middle School (6160 Kearney St., Commerce City).

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

#