



18th Annual Private & Independent Education Awards *Event Details*

Hello Private & Independent Education Awards Attendees,

We look forward to welcoming you on **Sunday, April 26th**, to the **18th Annual Private & Independent Education Awards & MINNDEPENDENT's 50th Anniversary Celebration!** Please share this information with your guests.

DATE

Sunday, April 26, 2026

LOCATION

Mendakota Country Club
2075 Mendakota Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
[Click here for Google Map](#)

EVENT SCHEDULE

4:00 - 5:00 ~ Registration & Social Hour (Cash bar)
5:00 - 7:00 ~ Dinner & Awards Program

ATTIRE

Business Casual

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE EVENT

Contact MINNDEPENDENT
651-297-6716, office@minndependent.org
Or visit: <https://minndependent.org/ed-awards/>

2026 Award Recipients



JAMES B. FIELD LEGACY AWARD

Doug Jaeger
Ulteig



LEADERSHIP AWARD

Kelly Roche
*St. Joseph School
Rosemount*



LEADERSHIP AWARD

Ross Douma
*Avail Academy
Edina, Fridley & Blaine*



HONOR TEACHER AWARD

Nick Pennell
*Our Lady of Peace
Minneapolis*



HONOR TEACHER AWARD

Ben Gapinski
*Hill-Murray School
Maplewood*



BEHIND THE SCENES AWARD

Michelle Youness
*Community of Saints
Catholic School
West St. Paul*



**COMMUNITY CHAMPION
AWARD**

Teri McCloughan, JD
*Attorney
Stapleton & McCloughan,
PLLC*



Hill-Murray School
The Catholic Benedictine Prep School

PROGRAM AWARD

Pioneer Pathway
*Hill-Murray Middle School
Maplewood*

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HONOR TEACHER SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



AWARD SPONSOR



STEM GRANT SPONSOR



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Jim Hansen



Dr. Ken & Linda
Holmen

TABLE SPONSORS



Teri & Kevin
McCloughan



Chuck & Mary
Killian

Josh & Sue
Killian

Anna & Jason
Lima

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For Private & Independent Schools



MINNDEPENDENT

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