

Janet Ledesma

This evening, the recipient of the John Nevins Andrews Medallion is Janet Ledesma, whose collaborative leadership in the field of education has distinguished her among her colleagues.

Ledesma earned her BS in science at Atlantic Union College in 1982. She continued her education at Andrews University, receiving her MA in teaching in 1986 and a PhD in educational administration and leadership in 2011.

Ledesma has two young adult children, Christian and Ariana, who both completed undergraduate and graduate degrees from Andrews University.

Since the beginning of her career, Ledesma has contributed approximately 30 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist K–12 school system as an educator and administrator. For the majority of those years, Ledesma worked as a principal, where she gained important networking, collaboration, mentoring and leadership skills that informed her later research and career. In addition to her roles in education, she has also worked as a grant and proposals specialist for the New Jersey Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Ledesma's first position at Andrews University was as marketing and mentoring coordinator in educational administration from 2005–2006. She returned in 2011 as Educational Leadership coordinator and a professor in the Department of Leadership and, in 2017, she took on the role of associate dean for the School of Education.

She has published several peer-reviewed articles and has given numerous professional presentations and consultations. Her scholarship and research have investigated topics such as spiritual and religious leadership, resilience in leadership, collaborative relationships, diversity, implicit bias, and professional success. She coordinated and guest edited an issue of the *Journal of Adventist Education* on principalship and has served as an editorial consultant for the publication numerous times.

Ledesma has also been actively involved in her community through participation in conventions, webinars, the Lake Union Conference Education Management Team, councils and committees. She served as chair of the Andrews University Faculty Senate and has made contributions to the Dean's Council, President's Council and Board of Trustees. She is passionate about developing support for a system-wide principal preparation program that can convey the value of their individual contributions and how the Educational Leadership program can support them.

For her exemplary leadership in progressing the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education at Andrews University and beyond, the faculty of Andrews University is proud to present Janet Ledesma with the John Nevins Andrews Medallion.