

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department



Governor Tim Walz

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

Gift Saloka

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

Special Education Teacher

Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Effective: March 14, 2023

Expires: January 6, 2025

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 9, 2023.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon
Secretary of State

Replacing: Brian Rappe

Filed March 9, 2023
Office of the Minnesota
Secretary of State
Steve Simon

Part I: Position Sought

Agency Name: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board
Position: Teacher

Part II: Applicant Information

Name: Gift Onenee Saloka
Phone:
County: Stearns
Mn House District: No Answer
US House District: No Answer
Recommended by the Appointing Authority: False

Part III: Appending Documentation

Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

Veteran: No Answer

Part V: Signature

Signature: Gift Saloka
Date: 1/24/2023 6:07:10 PM

EVO PDF Tools Demo

Gift Saloka

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(651) 399-4233

osaloka@gmail.com

<http://oneneesaloka.com>

Education

Saint Mary's University (Minneapolis, MN)

Ed.D. – Educational Leadership (2014)

Special Honors: *Commencement Speaker*

Dissertation Title: *Success First-Generation Hmong College Students' descriptions of their Educational Experiences in Minnesota: A Phenomenological Study*

<http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/dissertation.pdf>

Bethel University (St. Paul, MN)

M.S. – Special Education (2009)

Thesis: *The Effect of Parent Involvement on Student Achievement*

University of New York (New York, NY)

B.S. – Business Economics (1986)

Professional Experience

Independent School District (IS742, St. Cloud, MN)

Special Education Teacher

02/2017 – Present

- Develop and implement individualized program for each special education student .
- Identify and implement goals tailored to the individual student 's needs and abilities.
- Modeled, trained, and consulted teachers on modifications to instructional materials ensuring the diverse needs of every student are successfully realized .
- Actively supported teaching professionals on effective work strategies with Special Needs Students , maintaining strong focus on person centeredness .
- Employed diverse techniques to promote active learning including individualized instruction, problem solving assignments, and small group work.
- Exercised flexibility within the classroom addressing students ' needs through special accommodations.
- Actively involved in students' behavioral, social, and academic development, aiding students in developing emotionally, feeling comfortable in social situation, and awareness of socially acceptable behavior.

Northwest Technical College-Distance Minnesota (Consortium of Colleges, Perham, MN)

MnSCU Academic Professional 1

05/2016 – 02/2017

- Provide advice about program planning, degree planning, course selections, course/academic performance and scheduling, graduation requirements, degree audits, transfer articulations, and transfer evaluations to 231 students .
- Perform outreach activities (i.e., recruit, attend college fairs, etc).
- Implement (or carry out) advising processes, related resources, and special projects aimed toward developing and maintaining working relationships with assigned advisees to maximize student achievement, retention, persistence, and educational goal attainment.

- Experience working with college or pre-college students with an emphasis on student development.
- Experience using CRM software.
- Experience in analyzing and using quantitative and qualitative data.
- Skills in using information access and advising tools common to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (e.g., iSEEK, GPS Life Plan, eServices, D2L, College Search, Transferology, My Military GPS Life Plan, Veterans Education Transfer System, My Military Education, LinkVet, etc.) sufficient to identify and recommend information, resources and services relevant to address the information and advising needs of students, veterans and other interested parties.

Macalester College (St. Paul, MN)

Card Service Functional Manager / Student Affairs

01/2008 – 06/2016

- Manage card services operations including deployment, policy development, operational management and ongoing product development.
- Work with internal departments, including providing needed training, to ensure program success.
- Negotiate, administer and maintain agreements with external vendors ensuring favorable partnerships.
- Provide technical, system and equipment expertise to all stakeholders.
- Directly supervise and assume responsibility for training, planning, assigning and directing the work of up to six employees.
- Assist with research, funding, and implementation of keyless entry systems and other innovative services.
- Assist in planning and executing Residential life, Campus Life, and Campus Center programming.

Hastings High School (Hastings, MN)

Intern – Assistant Principal

Summer 2010

- Served in classroom during literacy instruction
- Helped teachers develop professional learning community (PLC)
- Supervised academic and administrative tasks
- Worked on curriculum, order textbooks and supplies, and prepare student schedules
- Coordinated support services such as cafeteria, transportation and custodial services
- Organized and facilitated teachers' meetings

Professional Presentations

- **Cultural Competency: Leadership Inventory**

Leadership Conference, St. Cloud University - April 16, 2015

http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/cultural_competency.pdf

- **Beyond Theory: Creating Culturally Relevant Mentoring Programs for the Non-native Born**

Mentoring Conference, University of New Mexico - October 20, 2015

- <http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/Mentoring-NM-Final-8-11-15.pdf>

- **Hmong Educational Experiences in Minnesota**

Dissertation, St. Mary's University - October 8, 2014

- **Nigeria: Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act**

Global Citizenship, Macalester College - February 11, 2014

- ◆ American Educational Studies Association
- ◆ American Educational Research Association
- ◆ Philosophy of Education Society
- ◆ American Evaluation Association
- ◆ Minnesota Evaluation Association
- ◆ MEA Racial Equity Advocate (REA) Cohort
- ◆ STMA District Advisory Committee
- ◆ Macalester Staff Development & Training Committee
- ◆ Macalester College Grant Committee
- ◆ Minnesota Special Education Taskforce 2021 - 2023
- ◆ the NEA IDEA Resource Cadre 2022 - 2023

GIFT ONENEE SALOKA

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January 24, 2023

Search Committee
Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Members of the Search Committee:

Please accept this letter and resume as my formal application for the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, which was recently posted in the <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/website>. I believe that I have the experiences, skills, and dedication necessary to be successful in this position and be an indispensable, dedicated, and strong member.

I currently work as a Special Education Teacher (7 years) for Saint Cloud School District (ISD742). In my role working with diverse people each day, I have developed excellent interpersonal skills. I collaborate, yet advocate with colleagues across the district providing leadership for students and co-workers. Some of my most satisfying experiences have come from belonging to the prestigious NEA IDEA Resource Cadre, MN Special Education Taskforce, and MEA Racial Equity Advocate (REA) Cohort.

I completed my Ed. D. in Educational Leadership at Saint Mary's University in Minnesota. My dissertation project, *Successful First-Generation Hmong College Students' Descriptions of Their Educational Experiences in Minnesota: A Phenomenological Study* examines the relationship between classroom experiences and academic achievement, with a particular focus on culturally relevant teaching. Students bring existing knowledge that needs to be incorporated into curricula to enhance their academic achievement. I bring an ability to apply the leadership roles gained from NEA IDEA Resource Cadre, MN Special Education Taskforce, and MEA Racial Equity Advocate (REA) Cohort to support the hard work of Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board.

I care about maximizing the teaching potential of people at disadvantage. I am deeply committed to diversity and under achievement issues and firmly believe that higher education not only has the potential but also the responsibility to educate students so that they are knowledgeable, skilled, and committed to creating a just and equitable society. I value what education offers to both the individual and the community.

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board can support the enhancement and licensure for people at disadvantage when it comes to retaining minority teachers. I am energized by the potential to foster Support for licensure for potential minority teachers. Enclosed you will

find my resume outlining these experiences and accomplishments in greater detail. I welcome the opportunity to further discuss my qualifications. You can reach me via email at osaloka@yahoo.com or by phone at 651-399-4233. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Gift Saloka