



# STATE *of* MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

### Shannon Finnegan

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

#### Member #8

#### Board of the Perpich Center for Arts Education

Effective: February 12, 2025

Expires: January 1, 2029

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it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.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 February 7, 2025.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE

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President of the Senate

Filed February 7, 2025  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State  
Steve Simon

Replacing: Leslie LeCuyer

# Application for the position Member Application Date: 11/30/2024 2:24:34 PM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us). Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

## Part I: Position Sought

**Agency Name:** Board Of The Perpich Center For Arts Education

**Position:** Member

**Seat:** Member #10

## Part II: Applicant Information

**Name:** Shannon Finnegan

**Mailing Address:** 8050 Queen Ave S Bloomington 55431

**County:** Hennepin

**Mn House District:** 50A

**US House District:** 3

**Phone:**

**Email:** shanfinn86@gmail.com

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

## Part III: Appending Documentation

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

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

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

## Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

**Race and Natural Origin:** White or Caucasian

**Gender:** Female

**Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin:** No

**Heard about vacancy from:** Extension of work duties

**Political Party:** No Answer (Default)

**Disability:** No

**Veteran:** No

**Age when applied:** 38

## Part V: Signature

**Signature:** Shannon Finnegan

**Date:** 11/30/2024 2:24:34 PM

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# SHANNON FINNEGAN

INNOVATIVE, LEARNER-CENTERED  
EDUCATOR  
MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE  
YEAR FINALIST (2020)

Partnering with students, educators,  
administrators, and families to reimagine and  
reinvent the education system.



## EXPERIENCE

### Special Education Teacher Setting 3 EBD

RICHFIELD HIGH SCHOOL  
2024 - PRESENT RICHFIELD, MN

- **Teach** Social and Emotional Learning Skills and A.P. Human Geography (out of field placement).
- **Case Manage** students with Individualized Education Plans (OHD + EBD).
- **Consult** on modifications of social studies curriculum to meet the needs of all learners.

### Co-Founder and Consultant

THE LOOP CONSULTING COLLECTIVE  
2023 - PRESENT MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- **Disrupt** harmful practices, **reimagine** possibilities, and **build** pathways for sustainable change.
- **Collaborate** in order to **create** customized trainings to fit the needs and wants of clientele.
- **Establish** data informed pathways to **operationalize** and **achieve** desired outcomes.
- **Strategize** with stakeholders to design a clear roadmap.
- **Lead** and **support** teams in learning, dialogue, and implementation.

### Co-Founder

THREE STRANDS CONSULTING  
2023 - PRESENT MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- **Influencing** future Teacher Evaluation & Development through our own **design** of a new framework that is rooted in justice, street data, and collective stakeholder feedback.

## EDUCATION

### M.A. International Education

New York University **RECEIVED**  
2013-2014 GPA: 3.91

Courses Included:

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- Politics in Education
- Education and Social Policy
- Globalization of Education **President of the Senate**
- Qualitative Research Methods + Applied Statistics
- Education and Diversity (Study Abroad in Ghana)
- Intercultural Perspectives in Multicultural Education (Study Abroad in Dominican Republic)
- Volunteer Research Assistant with Professor Carol Anne Spreen for *Teachers on the Front Lines* project
  - conducted and transcribed interviews of teacher activists

### B.S. Social Studies & Secondary Education

Minnesota State University, Mankato  
2004-2008 GPA: 3.83

Awards Included:

- College of Education's Rising Star Award
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) Community Service Award
- College of SBS Junior Honor Marshall
- College of SBS Commencement Speaker
- Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities

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## EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

### Adjunct Faculty Clinical Supervisor

ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION  
2023 - 2024 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- **Evaluated** and **provided feedback** for teacher candidates on curriculum and pedagogy.
- **Shared** strategies and tools to **optimize** learning experiences for students.
- **Lead** and **supported growth** of teacher candidates through learning, dialogue, and implementation.
- **Made formal recommendation** to the School of Education on teacher candidates based on formal and informal observations.

### Engagement Guide + Program Consultant

THRIVE ED  
2019 - 2023 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- **Co-designed** and **engaged** in authentic learning experiences with high school students at the Collaborative Lab School.
- **Co-designed** and **facilitated** professional learning opportunities for educators and students around Restorative Justice and Co-Design.
- **Strategized** alongside Executive Directors and team on successful methods to implement sustaining change in schools.

## RELATED EXPERIENCE

- **Professional Development Facilitator** (2019-Present)
  - *Fostering Engagement: Your Role as a Leader + From Classroom Management to Classroom Culture*, MN Charter School Leadership Conference 2024
  - *Reimagining Education: Addressing the Teacher Shortage*, ASCD 2024
  - *Competency-Based Assessment*, MEA 2023
  - *Reinventing Education: The Collaborative Lab School*, Student Centered Learning for Equity Conference 2023
  - *Standards-Based Assessment*, Lighthouse Learning, Thief River Falls Area Learning Center 2019
- **Education Policy Fellow** at Teach for America; engaged in learning around education policy with a cohort of Twin Cities educators in Minneapolis, MN (2022-2023).
- **Volunteer / Executive Director / Board Member** at Celebrate Me Week, a non-profit summer camp for youth entering 7th grade focused on building healthy self-esteem and peer relationships in Madison Lake, MN. (2003-2023)

## STRENGTHS + SKILLS

Relationship + Team Building

Facilitation + Training

Innovation + Design

Writing + Public Speaking

Leadership + Visioning

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## EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

### Engagement Guide + Founding Educator

COLLABORATIVE LAB SCHOOL  
THRIVE ED + HOPKINS  
2019 - 2023 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

- **Co-designed** and **engaged** in authentic, innovative learning experiences with high school students and families at the Collaborative Lab School.
- **Strategized** alongside Executive Directors on successful and research-based methods to implement sustaining change in schools.

### Social Studies Teacher (MN License 5-12)

HOPKINS ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM  
2017-2021 HOPKINS, MN

- **Served** as a member of the Building Instructional Leadership Team.
- **Facilitated** the implementation of Restorative Justice Practices and Competency-Based Assessment.

SCHOOL FOR DEMOCRACY & LEADERSHIP  
2015-2017 BROOKLYN, NY

- **Served** as the Advisor for Restorative Justice Youth Leaders, Student Government, Drama Club, and as a member of the Restorative Justice Implementation Team.
- **Volunteered** as Global Glimpse advisor, chaperoned study abroad trip to Nicaragua.

MANKATO WEST HIGH SCHOOL  
2008-2013 MANKATO, MN

- **Co-Founded** the 9th Grade Academy to meet the needs of marginalized students.
- **Served** as Chairperson and Secretary of the Building Leadership Team, Drama Club Advisor and Spring Play Director.

## TESTIMONIALS

"Shannon blends critical thinking, historical and cultural awareness, and a strong ethical compass in her leadership."

-Qorsho Hassan, MN Teacher of the Year 2020

"Shannon's deep commitment to creating joyful and empowering learning spaces for students is evident."

-Nicole Dimich, Executive Director Thrive Ed

"Ms. Finnegan is a unique, rare type of teacher for many reasons. First, she loves her students - *all* of her students. Also, how she teaches is amazing because you can actually understand it and the learning is fun."

-Quincy Gustafson, Student from 2018-2021

"Shannon lives and breathes education innovation."

-Doug Bullinger, Former Principal of Hopkins

## CONTACT RECEIVED

+507-351-5183

shanfinn86@gmail.com

theloopcc.com President of the Senate

www.linkedin.com/in/shanfinn86

Minneapolis, MN

FEB 7 2025

Search Committee  
Perpich Center for Arts Education  
6125 Olson Memorial Hwy  
Golden Valley, MN 55422

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in joining the Board of Directors for Perpich Center for Arts Education. With a deep commitment to building a more just, humane, and liberated school system, I bring a unique combination of experience in education, nonprofit leadership, and the arts that supports the mission of Perpich.

For 15 years, I have been a dedicated social studies teacher, honored as a top-ten finalist for Minnesota Teacher of the Year in 2020. My passion for education extends beyond the traditional classroom, demonstrated by my role in co-designing and launching a Collaborative Lab School. This innovative project reimaged traditional schooling by empowering students as decision-makers, problem-solvers, and co-designers. I am currently working to uplift student voice and agency as a Special Education Teacher (Setting III EBD) at Richfield High School.

My commitment to justice and systemic change in education is exemplified through my work as co-founder of The Loop Consulting Collective, where we partner with schools and organizations to disrupt harmful practices, reimagine possibilities, and build pathways to sustainable change. We collaborate with our clients to co-create more just, effective, and inclusive working and learning environments.

In my seven years as Secretary of the Board and Executive Committee member for Celebrate Me Week, a non profit summer camp focused on building self-esteem and positive peer relationships for youth, I demonstrated effective governance, strategic leadership, and collaboration. Additionally, I founded and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, leading initiatives to ensure inclusivity in our programming and operations.

My background in the arts has been a constant thread in my professional and personal life. I have served as a drama club advisor and play director for high schools and community theatres in both Southern Minnesota and Brooklyn, NY. These experiences have instilled in me a profound appreciation for the transformative power of the arts in education and personal growth.

I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the Perpich Center's vision for a vibrant future where arts education empowers students and communities. Thank you for considering my application. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my experiences and perspectives align with the goals of the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Finnegan  
8050 Queen Ave S Apt 201  
Minneapolis, MN 55431  
[shannon@theloopcc.com](mailto:shannon@theloopcc.com)  
507-351-5183

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