**Minnesota Association of School Administrators**

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**News Release**

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**Rick Bleichner Named Administrator of Excellence**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Rick Bleichner, Superintendent of the Herman-Norcross School District, as a 2018 Administrator of Excellence. Bleichner received this award in recognition of his leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. He was honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 8-9, 2018, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Bleichner’s achievements reflect his ability to lead important changes in the educational system. He has been a superintendent for 20 years serving at the Herman-Norcross School District, Breckenridge School District, Evansville School District, and Battle Lake School District.

“Mr. Bleichner deserves much credit for the state of education in several outstanding school districts. His innovative approaches to education have earned him rave reviews among his peers,” said Jeremy Kovash, Executive Director of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative. “Mr. Bleichner’s ability to lead school districts in today’s tough economic times through innovation and efficiency is commendable.”

Bleichner is an active MASA and AASA member. He is a member of the MASA legislative policy and executive development committees and serves as regional mentor. Bleichner is an active member of the Lakes Country Service Cooperative Administrative Advisory Committee, Minnesota State University Moorhead Dean’s Advisor Committee, Minnesota State High School League, Minnesota Rural Educators, Minnesota State Future Farmers of America Board, and the United Way of Otter Tail County and Richland-Wilkin County.

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota’s school leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of special education, and other central office administrators, as well as state department administrators, college and university professors, and other educators throughout Minnesota dedicated to educational leadership for students.

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