**Minnesota Association of School Administrators**

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**News Release**

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**Stephen Jones Named Administrator of Excellence**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Stephen Jones, Superintendent of Little Falls Community Schools, as a 2018 Administrator of Excellence. Jones 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.

Jones’ achievements reflect his ability to lead important changes in the educational system. Jones has been serving as Superintendent of Little Falls Community Schools since 2012. He previously served as Superintendent of Sibley East Schools, High School Principal/Superintendent of Murray County Central Public Schools, and High School Principal at Maple River Schools.

Under Superintendent Jones’ leadership, Little Falls Community Schools developed a Career & College Ready program highlighted by Project REAL, the district’s E-12 1:1 technology initiative. The district partners with the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls on a two-acre organic vegetable garden that produces well over 10,000 pounds of produce for its food service program, and has recently begun an expansive internship program for high school juniors and seniors. In addition, Little Falls Community Schools is at the forefront of many educational initiatives centered on Personalized Learning for its students, piloting a number of innovative academic opportunities for students.

In the past three years, the district drastically expanded its curriculum in agriculture, health occupations, and robotics. The district, along with nine other Region 5 school districts, launched its unique staff development initiative titled Alternative Career Pathways (ACP), which provides the opportunity for staff members to individualize their own professional development. Thus far through the second year of ACP more than 125 teachers have broadened their professional development through projects aimed at impacting classrooms, academics, schools, and communities.

Jones received his master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of South Dakota and his bachelor's degrees in Secondary Education and Teaching, and Radio and Television from Southwest Minnesota State University.

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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