

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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Diane Cordes Named Administrator of Excellence

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Diane Cordes, Superintendent of the Breckenridge Public Schools, a 2019 Administrator of Excellence. Cordes received this award in recognition of her leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. She was honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 7-8, 2019, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Cordes' achievements reflect her ability to lead important changes in the educational system. Since 2007, Cordes has led very successful Day Treatment Program with a unique combination of mental health and academic programming for students. Breckenridge's Day Treatment Program is one of only two Option 3 (specialized mental health) programs in Minnesota. The program gives hope to students and families who are struggling for answers. Through the identification and maximization of financial resources, the program meets a great need while being fiscally solvent for the district.

Cordes understands the importance of the relationships necessary to improve student achievement including those with students, staff, parents, and the community. She has created these key relationships by building a climate of excellence and high expectations. Under Cordes' leadership, the district built a vision of 21st Century learning by using curriculum and technology to assist students in career readiness in a global society.

Cordes is an active MASA member. She currently serves on the MASA Foundation Board and has been a member of the Legislative Committee and Legislative Policy Subcommittee. Cordes is a member of several community organizations including the Breckenridge Education Foundation Board, chair of the Richland-Wilkin United Way Board, Richland-Wilkin Community Fund Board, and the Church Council Board.

Cordes received a master's degree in School Counseling and Personnel Service from South Dakota State University. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Social Science from the University of Minnesota-Morris. Cordes earned her K-12 Administrative and Superintendent Licensure and an Education Specialist degree from St. Mary's 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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