

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dave Thacker is the Special Education Administrator of the Year

(St. Paul, MN) – Dave Thacker, Special Education Director for the Centennial Schools, has been named the 2011 Special Education Administrator of the Year by the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE). Mr. Thacker was honored for his dedication to students with disabilities and their families, and his active involvement in professional and community affairs, at a statewide recognition ceremony at the MASE Best Practices Conference, May 5-6, 2011, at Madden’s Resort in Brainard, Minnesota.

Mr. Thacker has been involved with education for over 26 years. During those years, he served as a school psychologist, a probation officer for juveniles, and as an administrator serving all students in special education programs. Mr. Thacker has been the special education director at Centennial Schools for 12 years.

Staff, parents, and peers consider Mr. Thacker a true advocate for students with disabilities. Mr. Thacker is dedicated to meeting the needs of students through high quality staff development and data-driven decision-making. This colleagues consider him a progressive administrator, standing up for students in some of the most difficult situations.

Mr. Thacker is involved in many professional associations including the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the Minnesota School Psychologists Association (MSPA), the Society for Neuroscience, and MASE. Mr. Thacker earned his bachelor degree from the University of Colorado, his Master of Science in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls and his administrative licensure from the University of Minnesota.

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MASE is a professional association organized to promote programs and services to improve the education of children with disabilities, to foster high quality programs of professional development, and to study problems relating to serving children with disabilities and improving the leadership of administrators for special education. MASE members are administrators for special education in public or private schools, cooperative regional, state and other educational education administrative units, college and university professors of special education teacher or administrator preparation programs, and administrators, coordinators or consultants for the Minnesota Department of Education.

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