

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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John Klaber Receives MASE Distinguished Service Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named John Klaber, MASE Executive Director, as the recipient of the 2018 Distinguished Service Award. Klaber will be honored for his positive history and association with Minnesota public education, contribution to improving Minnesota’s public education, and reputation as a person who willingly “goes the extra mile” at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 8-9, 2018, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Klaber began his career in public education as a history and German high school teacher and varsity basketball coach for Independent School District #319 in Nashwauk, MN. He went on to be a School Psychologist for Yellowstone West/Carbon County Special Services Cooperative in Laurel, MT and then for the Mankato Area Public Schools. During his time at the Mankato Area Public Schools, Klaber was the Area Learning Center Director, Interim Director of Human Resources, and finally the Director of Special Education and Student Services. In 2013, Klaber began his role as the MASE Executive Director.

“As a leader, John consistently demonstrates skills and dedication to the field of special education that are admirable. He recognizes the issues and then works to find solutions. He doesn’t do this alone. John builds partnerships with various groups and individuals so that a solution and plan can be put into place,” said Jill Skarvold, Regional Specialist for Special Education at Lakes Country Service Cooperative. “John also doesn’t retreat from tough situations but works with others to find solutions. As a result, special education has been strengthened in Minnesota.”

Klaber’s experience and ability to build positive relationships has been an asset to MASE. He has used his talents to increase the advocacy reach of MASE. Klaber has developed strong, positive connections with the Minnesota Department of Education, advocacy organizations, and legislators. He has organized the efforts of the MASE Board of Directors and supported the Executive Board to ensure that the organization is able to follow through and provide timely, consistent responses to various groups. Klaber is always focused on serving the best interest of the learners in Minnesota and the administrators working to support them. Over the years, Klaber has mentored many people in the field of special education. Yet, he knows that in order to impact the future of education positively, we must all work to support others. He communicates this need and expectation that we all need to step in to mentor and support our new leaders in the field. His passion for supporting new people in the field of special education is evident on a day-to-day basis.

Klaber has remained active in many professional associations and organizations through his career. His involvement and leadership includes the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CEC), MASE and the MASE Board of Directors, Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), National Association of School Psychologists, Minnesota School Psychologists Association, Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs, Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning Alternative Programs Advisory Committee, and the Montana Association of School Psychologists. Klaber was the recipient of the 2016-2017 Ysseldyke Distinguished Best Practices Award from the Minnesota School Psychologists Association.

Klauer received a master's degree in Education and a School Psychology Certification from the University of Wisconsin-Superior. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Minnesota Duluth and completed the Hickory Tech Educational Leadership Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

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 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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