

# Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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## **Jill Skarvold named Special Education Administrator of the Year**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Jill Skarvold, Regional Specialist for Special Education at Lakes Country Service Cooperative, as the 2017 Special Education Administrator of the Year. Skarvold has received this award for her dedication to students with disabilities and their families, and her active involvement in professional and community affairs. She will be honored with the Special Education Administrator of the Year Award at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 9-10, 2017, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

Skarvold has been in the special education field for more than 40 years, and has served as the Regional Specialist for Special Education at Lakes Country Service Cooperative since 2015. She is a dynamic and dedicated educator whose contributions to the field of special education are numerous. Through her leadership and vision, Skarvold has built organizations recognized for providing outstanding and innovative specialized services for students with unique needs.

“My first experience with Ms. Skarvold was as a participant in the NOVA Leadership Cohort. I quickly realized her knowledge and passion for the community supporting students and families with disabilities is exemplary,” said Cathy Tryggstad, Director of Special Services at Eagle Ridge Academy. “Jill Skarvold is a respected and valued member of our organization and has provided exceptional service throughout her career – I can think of no better recognition than for her to receive this award.”

During her career, Skarvold was a Special Education Coordinator and Administrator for the St. Mary's County Public Schools in Maryland. She also served as an administrator for the Department of Public Instruction and the West River Special Services in North Dakota. Skarvold was the Principal and then Director of Special Services for the Dickinson Public Schools in North Dakota. She then was the Executive Director of Learner Support Services at Moorhead Area Public Schools from 2001-2015.

As an advocate for students with disabilities, Skarvold has been an active MASE member serving on the Professional Development, Nominations, Legislative, Strategic Planning, Federal Advocacy, and Stenwick Benson Scholarship Review Committees. She has served as the MASE President and currently serves as the liaison to the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE). Skarvold has also represented MASE on the Minnesota Department of Education Task Force on Recruitment Issues for Special Education, Mild Disabilities Advisory Committee, State Advisory Committee on RtI, and the Restrictive Procedures Workgroup. Beyond Minnesota, she also served on the executive boards for the special education administrators associations in Maryland and North Dakota.

Skarvold has served on the Dean's Advisory Committee, Speech Language Hearing Services Advisory Board, and the Special Education Advisory Committee at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She has also been actively involved with her community in various organizations such as the Children's Services Coordinating Council and the United Way Board of Directors in North Dakota, and the Children's Mental Health Advisory Board of Clay County and the HOPE Board of Directors in Minnesota.

Skarvold earned her master's and specialist degrees in Curriculum & Instruction and Administration from the University of Maryland. She received her bachelor's degree in Elementary and Special Education from the University of North Dakota.

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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