

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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Carol Anhalt Receives MASE Legacy Award

(St. Paul, MN) – Carol Anhalt, Retired Director of the Zumbro Education District, has been awarded the Legacy Award by the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE). Anhalt will be honored for her commitment to encouraging, developing, and mentoring leaders who reflect the MASE mission at a statewide recognition ceremony to be held at the 2020 MASE Fall Leadership Conference, October 21-23.

For nearly 30 years, Anhalt served as the Executive Director of the Zumbro Education District, from which she retired in 2017. Prior to her role as director, Anhalt was the Minnesota Coordinator for Project SKI*HI/INSTITE with the Minnesota Department of Education. She acted as a Regional SKI*HI/INSITE Coordinator and Consultant for Early Childhood and Special Education with Southeast Minnesota ECSU. Anhalt's teaching and instruction career includes teacher for Learning Disabled Students, pre-school special education teacher, and as a first-grade teacher. Anhalt also was an instructor in the Department of Psychology at Townson State College in Baltimore, MD.

“Carol has been a caring, dedicated, and responsive administrator. She is a quiet leader with character and I have never met a person who does not have tremendous admiration and respect for Carol and her work in special education,” said Debbra Marcotte, Executive Director of the Hiawatha Valley Education District. “Carol's influence and inspiration continues today. Her legacy will continue throughout the Zumbro Education District into the future.”

Anhalt was instrumental in increasing the knowledge and understanding for many equitable comprehensive special education services and efficient use of special education funding involving local, state, and federal allocations. Her contributions to the field of special education has inspired many staff to move into leadership roles through her mentoring, training, support, and modeling. Anhalt was an active participant in the regional strategic planning sessions where she used her experience to create a vision, mission, core values, strategic initiatives, and future goals that reflected the current times. She understood the power of collaborative effort and through her years as a director, always helped to bring the directors in the region into agreement on the best path forward.

“Eighteen years ago, I met Carol at a Region 10 Director meeting. Carol willingly shared her expertise and strategies with me on how to effectively work with several districts, how to encourage collaboration, and how to keep multiple independent school districts moving in the same direction. It was valuable advice for a new director,” said Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director of the Goodhue County Education District. “In recognition of Carol’s significant contribution to the education of students with special needs, her undying passion for the field of special education, and her support of educators and colleagues, it is with pleasure I recommend her for the MASE Legacy Award.”

During her time as an Active Member of MASE, Anhalt served as president and as a regional representative on the MASE Board of Directors and represented MASE Region F2 on multiple MASE committees.

Anhalt earned a master's degree in Special Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Child Study from Vassar College.

The MASE Nominating Committee selects the Legacy Award recipient based on a review of biographical information provided in the nomination materials. The recipient must be a current active MASE member (or active at the time of their retirement) who has contributed to the professional growth and development of others through a service history as a long-standing, contributing MASE member. The recipient must demonstrate a commitment to the field of special education through training, mentoring, personal support, modeling, and demonstrating an impact that is considerable and measurable over time; and contribution at the local, regional, and state levels.

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 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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