

# Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

1884 Como Avenue • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108 • (651) 645-6272

News Release

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**Contact:**

Mia Urick, [urickm@mnasa.org](mailto:urickm@mnasa.org)  
Director of Professional Learning  
MASE  
(651) 645-6272

## John Klaber Receives MASE Legacy Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named John Klaber, MASE Executive Director, as the recipient of the 2021 Legacy Award. Klaber will be honored for his commitment to encouraging, developing, and mentoring leaders who reflect the MASE mission at a statewide recognition ceremony to be held at the 2021 MASE Fall Leadership Conference, October 27-29, 2021, at Madden’s on Gull Lake.

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.

“John has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to the field of special education and in his daily work he embodies the MASE spirit and mission,” said Jamie Nord, MASE President and Executive Director, St. Croix River Ed. District. “John goes the extra mile for our members and he is committed to creating a legacy of compassionate leaders in the field of special education.”

Klaber’s drive and passion to build positive relationships has been an asset to MASE. He has used his skills and expertise to increase the advocacy reach of MASE by developing strong, positive connections with the Minnesota Department of Education, advocacy organizations, and state and federal legislators. He has organized the efforts of the MASE Board of Directors and committees, 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 consistently focused on serving the best interest of the learners in Minnesota and the administrators working to support them. He knows that in order to impact the future of education positively, we must all work to support others. Throughout his career, Klaber has mentored many MASE members in the field of special education. His passion for supporting new administrators in the field of special education is evident in all the work that he does.

Klaber has remained active in many professional associations and organizations through his career. His involvement and leadership include the Council for Administrators of Special Education (CASE), 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 2018 MASE Distinguished Service Award and the 2016-2017 Ysseldyke Distinguished Best Practices Award from the Minnesota School Psychologists Association.

Klaber 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.

*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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