

# Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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

News Release

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**Contact:**

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

## Scott Masten Receives MASE New Special Education Leader Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Scott Masten, Special Education Director of Lake Agassiz Education Cooperative, the recipient of the 2021 New Special Education Leader Award. Masten received this award for his commitment to students with disabilities and their families and his active involvement in professional and community affairs. He will be honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 11-12, 2021, held virtually.

“As a leader, Scott embodies the characteristics of what we work toward in MASE. He has a strong interest in working to advance the MASE organization and working with others to support the field of special education,” said Jill Skarvold, MASE Retiree and Specialist at the Lakes Country Service Cooperative. “Scott’s leadership is evident in his willingness to work not only in his cooperative but also with colleagues across the state. It is clear in my work over the years that Scott is one hundred percent dedicated to the ideals of working on behalf of students with disabilities as well as all students.”

Masten has served as the Director of Special Education of Lake Agassiz Education Cooperative since 2016. He began his career in public education as a School Psychologist for Lake Agassiz in 2010.

During his time as a school psychologist with Lake Agassiz Education Cooperative, Masten worked with districts within the cooperative on ways to use data and improve problem-solving. During this time, the cooperative began a Teacher-Child Interaction Training (TCIT) project, Masten researched the effectiveness of the model, went through the proper training, and then worked to phase in the project across the cooperative's districts. He recruited and trained staff, and instituted the required fidelity checks. Before taking the role of director, it was evident that Masten works to improve and influence services because it is a need for all students.

As a new director, Masten is a data-based decision-maker who understands the importance of using data to improve instruction for all students. He is willing to continue to advance the cooperative to new levels, recently pursuing the addition of an alternative learning center to help students of varying abilities succeed. Through Masten's leadership, an additional district joined the cooperative and he worked with each district to help leadership understand the changes that growth in the cooperative would bring.

Masten is an active member of MASE. He is currently the Treasurer for the MASE Board of Directors and has served on the MASE Legislative and Business Partnership Committees. Along with being a prominent member within MASE Area C, Masten is also a graduate of the MASE New Leaders Cohort.

Masten received a master's degree in School Psychology from Minnesota State University Moorhead. He earned a bachelor's degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. Masten also holds a Specialist and National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Certification.

*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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