

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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Barbara Jo Stahl Receives MASE Distinguished Service Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Barbara Jo Stahl, Marketing, Advertising and Work and Learn Coordinator at the University of St. Thomas, the recipient of the 2022 Distinguished Service Award. Stahl will be honored for her 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 held on March 10-11, 2022.

“It is with great enthusiasm that I support Barbara Jo Stahl for the MASE Distinguished Service Award for her commitment to encouraging, developing, and mentoring special education leaders and emerging teachers who reflect the MASE mission,” wrote Dr. Laura Pingry-Kile, Director of Specialized Services of Eastern Carver County Schools, in her letter of support. “I have personally known Barbara for more than 20 years and I am proud to have her as a colleague and friend. We have worked together closely in several professional capacities and I’ve consistently been impressed by her commitment and capacity to build strong leaders who work on behalf of students with disabilities.”

In her role with the University of St. Thomas, Stahl works with special education directors and Regional Low Incidence Facilitators to assess and examine teacher shortages to find pathways for individuals to obtain their teaching licenses. These opportunities have been offered in various regions throughout Minnesota with the goal to recruit, prepare, and retain highly qualified paraprofessionals, and Tier 1 and Tier 2 teachers on their journey to become Tier 3 licensed teachers. Stahl is also a strong advocate for recruiting candidates from underrepresented backgrounds who reflect our diverse student populations.

Before the University of St. Thomas, Stahl worked for 19 years at the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). At MDE she worked to develop a statewide infrastructure of staff development and support for paraprofessionals, focused on state-wide assessment, school improvement, and staff development and training. Stahl’s career has also included teaching elementary students with special needs in St. Paul Schools and working as Assistant Director of Special Education at Rum River Special Education Cooperative.

Stahl has an Educational Specialist degree in Education Demonstration, a master’s degree in Special Education, and a bachelor’s degree in Education.

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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