

# Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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## **Cheryl Johnson Receives MASE Special Education Administrator of the Year Award**

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) has named Cheryl Johnson, Executive Director of the Goodhue County Education District, the 2021 Special Education Administrator of the Year. Johnson 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 at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 11-12, 2021, held virtually.

“Cherie is a talented leader who is committed to finding ways to help families, students, and colleagues across the state to succeed,” said Simone Bolin, Executive Director of the Mid State Education District in her letter of support. “She is an advocate both locally and nationally for MASE and the students that our members serve. It is without reservation that I support Cherie for the MASE Special Education Administrator of the Year Award.

Johnson has an extensive history working in the field of special education. She has served as the Executive Director of the Goodhue County Education District since 2007. Johnson began her career as a Special Education Teacher in the Trumansburg School District in Trumansburg, NY. She returned to Minnesota to teach special education and later become the Assistant Director of Special Education for Red Wing Public Schools.

Johnson is highly knowledgeable about laws, statutes, and special education finances necessary to ensure comprehensive services meet the needs of students with disabilities. She has gone above and beyond her role within the Goodhue County Education District and she has become a service leader in her region and across the entire state. Along with colleagues from MASE, Johnson facilitated and executed a statewide professional development program focused on special education finance. She is a high-value resource to districts across the state as they work to maximize their financial resources for students receiving special education services.

Johnson is a long-time advocate of students receiving special education services which is demonstrated by her service to MASE and its partner organizations. She represents MASE on workgroups with the Minnesota Department of Education including the Restrictive Procedures Workgroup and the School Finance Working Group.

As an active member of MASE, Johnson has served as the MASE President and a member of the Board of Directors. She has chaired the MASE Legislative, Nominations, and Membership committees and has been a member of the Strategic Planning, Federal Advocacy, Professional Development, and Fundraising committees. Johnson represents MASE on the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) Board of Directors. She also serves as the Treasurer for the Minnesota Special Education Leaders Foundation (MNSELF). Johnson is also a member of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) and has served on the Legislative and Federal Advocacy committees.

Johnson received a Master of Science in Special Education from Marywood University in Scranton, PA. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Anthropology from Carlton College and a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Minnesota.

*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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