

Wednesday, October 24

3:30 - 5:30 pm

Nominating Committee Meeting

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Registration Open

5:30 - 6:30 pm

Dinner

6:30 - 8 pm

Dessert and Speaker

**The Conversation Continues ... Balance Your Conflict ~
Step by Step Communication to Transform Difficult
Interactions**

presented by
Jody Janati

Got Conflict? Find your Conversation Peace. After her popular presentation at the 2018 MASE Best Practices Conference, Jody Janati is back with us to continue the conversation! The purpose of this presentation is to specifically address, "What do I say and do" when dealing with people during difficult situations to avoid destructive patterns. Participants will learn how to control their anger and emotions, be assertive and effectively defuse conflict through a variety of applied approaches. Multiple techniques will be discussed to demonstrate that practical solutions are attainable through a variety of step by step methods.

Dr. Janati's books will be for sale following her presentation.

8 - 10 pm

Wine Tasting

*benefiting MNSELF: Minnesota Special Education Leaders
Foundation*

Our theme for the Wine Tasting this year is "Won't You Let Me Take You on a MASE Cruise?" Oo-ee, oo-ee baby ... whether you remember Frankie Ford belting out his fave sea cruise "American Graffiti" style, or you just have fond memories of Royal Caribbean, now is your chance to revisit the magic! Whether you go rock 'n roll or coral atoll, get your cruise wear ready and sample your favorite beverages, all to support MNSELF. Our MASE Areas will once again sponsor tables to show off their best MASE Cruise table themes. Everyone votes for their favorite table, and the beautiful (oo-ahhhh) MASE traveling trophy is at stake!

Last year, Area B won the coveted MASE traveling trophy for the best Area wine table of the 2017 conference.

Thursday, October 25

7:30 - 9 am

Breakfast

8 am – 5 pm

Silent Auction

benefiting MNSELF: Minnesota Special Education Leaders Foundation

Bidding is open all day until 5 pm.

A wonderful fall conference tradition, the Silent Auction is great shopping for an even greater cause! Start your holiday shopping now ... an auction item might make a great staff recognition ... isn't it about time you treated yourself?

Please bring your auction items to the registration desk Wednesday or Thursday. Auction items will be on display throughout the day. Be imaginative and donate items you think your colleagues will value. In past years, popular items have included consulting time, books, gift certificates, tickets, home-cooked meals, gift baskets and more.

8 am – 5 pm

New this year!

Guess How Many ...

Some days are hit.
Some days are miss.
Some days you might
Just need a kiss.

The person type
Is not our "beeswax."
It's the bit of chocolate
In foil, so relax!

Look at the jar,
And guess the count.
There's a prize for guessing
The right amount!

For a small donation
You get all this fun
And Thursday evening
We will know who won!

Be sure to stop at the Silent Auction on Thursday and enter your guess for the number of Hershey's Kisses in the jar. For a \$10 donation, you can enter one guess – enter as many times as you would like! The person guessing the number closest to the actual number will win a \$500 Amazon gift card. And the person in second place will win the jar of kisses. The winners will be announced Thursday evening at the pumpkin Patch Bash.

8 am

8:30 am

Tier III Exhibitors Set Up

General Exhibitor Set-Up

8:30 am

Registration Open

8:30 am

Coffee Available

9 – 10:30 am

Welcome and Keynote

How Leaders Can Build and Strengthen Relationships to

Benefit All Students

presented by

Kent Pekel, President and CEO, Search Institute

A main focus of Search Institute is to create strategies and tools to support organizations in being more intentional and inclusive in their efforts to strengthen relationships with and among all the young people and families they serve, particularly those who have historically been marginalized in society. These include:

- Showing how a focus on building developmental relationships is a critical lever for improving a wide range of youth outcomes;
- Creating strategies and tools that equip organizations to be more intentional and inclusive in their relationship-building efforts; and,
- Showing how these relationships can be transformative in the lives of young people and their families.

Join this session and learn how leadership shapes a culture of support for three critical relationships.

10:30 - 11 am

Break in the Exhibit Area

10:30 am – 6 pm

Visit the Exhibits

11 am – 12:15 pm

Breakout Sessions

Coach, Partner, Cop: A new process for fostering collaborative relationships

*Tony Mayer, Director of Special Education and Student Services, Spring Lake Park School District
Mick Waldspurger, Attorney, Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, PA*

This presentation will review the three main modes – coach, partner, cop – that the Spring Lake Park School District has been using, with exciting results, to foster collaborative relationships among staff members. The success of the process hinges on practices that create conditions for working in the “coach” and “partner” modes, with a goal of using the “cop” mode less than five percent of the time. For those occasions when “cop” mode becomes necessary, the presentation will include a review of legal strategies and directives for addressing staff members who persistently demonstrate poor attitudes, interact in a toxic manner with others, or engage in divisive behavior.

Commitment to Excellence for All

*Tony Buthe, Director of Educational Services, New Prague Area Schools
Amy Johnson, Director of Special Services, New Prague Area Schools*

The New Prague Area School District is committed to creating the best learning and teaching environment for our students, families, community members, and staff. At this session, you will hear about proven methods that demonstrate a highly effective administrative team that strategically prepares to serve all. What can you do as a District Administrator on a daily basis that helps build a culture that revolves around all students, staff, and community? Building a healthy, sustainable culture within your District doesn't have to be hard. Join us as we share with you a process that helps build and maintain a healthy culture within your District while also promoting student success.

Facility Planning for Ed Districts and Cooperatives

Gary Benson, Director of Project Planning & Development, Kraus-Anderson Construction

Cherie Johnson, Executive Director, Goodhue County Education District
Sarah Mittelstadt, Executive Director, Southern Plains Education Cooperative
Kelly Smith, Client Representative, Springsted, Inc.

There has been an increase in the number of Cooperatives and Ed Districts needing to upgrade facilities to meet student needs. Come and hear about the journey one Ed District and one Cooperative took to facilitate this process. You will hear about funding, construction, and related issues associated with these projects.

Compassion Fatigue and Staff Self-Care: Resources for leaders

Annie Mitty, School Psychologist, Intermediate District #287
Samantha Thompson, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, Intermediate District #287

Educators experience compassion fatigue, or secondary trauma when they are emotionally exhausted from reacting to traumatic events they experience through their work with students. Schools are environments where educators are exposed to very high emotions of students and adults, extremely sad and difficult stories, or traumatic background histories of students and families. Intermediate District 287 has successfully developed staff self-care practices and activities to address compassion fatigue in staff; presenters will share successes and progress. Participants will examine compassion fatigue/secondary trauma, learn to recognize signs of compassion fatigue, discuss successful self-care strategies for staff, and leave with practical tools and resources to implement or share in your school district.

Building a Strong Sense of Community Starts with You: Your good, bad and ugly

Janell Bullard, Director of Special Education, MAWSECO

School Communities are the result of connected relationships. Quality connections and relationships start with you. Do you understand what you bring to relationships? We all bring our good, our bad and our ugly. Spend time reviewing today's top authors in self-awareness and personal growth to identify your good, your bad, and your ugly. Walk away with key questions you can ask yourself about your current relationships and interactions to assure you are bringing your best self.

Speech Language Pathology Assistants: What's new and what they can do for your school district

Nancy Thul, SLPA Program Director/Instructor, Alexandria Technical and Community College

This presentation is designed to address the ongoing shortage of qualified Speech Language Pathologists by learning how to utilize a Speech Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA). Attendees will learn about the qualifications of an SLPA, reimbursement for their salary, and learn numerous strategies that will help administrators think "outside the box" when meeting the needs of students with speech, language, voice, stuttering, and other communication needs. This lecture will also update administrators on SLPA state licensure and the upcoming national credential that will be unveiled by the American Speech Hearing Association within the next two years, AND how this will affect schools.

12:15 – 1:30 pm

Lunch
Dessert in the Exhibit Area

1:30 – 2:45

Breakout Sessions

Understanding Key Provisions of Section 504: A Comparison with the IDEA

Alex Ivan, Attorney, Kennedy & Graven, Chartered
Adam Wattenbarger, Attorney, Kennedy & Graven, Chartered

Section 504 provides protections for students with disabilities that are both broader and narrower in scope than the IDEA. This presentation will review the key provisions and requirements under Section 504, and the ways in which they overlap and differ from the IDEA.

Formation of a Leadership Cohort: An Invitation from Board of School Superintendents (BOSS)

Mark Wolak, President, Board of School Superintendents (BOSS)

This presentation will share the purpose and overall design of BOSS cohort learning for leaders in public education, in particular, the formation of a job-alike cohort of leaders in special education. Mark will share his personal story of leading change in education systems and the value of sharing this journey

with other leaders while on the job.

Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the cohort learning design and practice. Mark is an experienced leader in public education with more than 40 years of leading improvements in both special and regular education systems. His passion is to share his enthusiasm and knowledge of strategic thinking, principles of systematic innovation and other effective practices for leaders in education.

Maximizing Team Communication

Jeff Jorgensen, Director of Student Support Services, Edina Public Schools

Great leadership teams are generally defined by the outcomes they achieve. As a result, we focus on alignment, execution and capacity building but we frequently find ourselves frustrated by the amount of effort we need to expend to keep our teams afloat. If instead, we focus first on identifying each team member's "Foundational Leadership Voice" and use the insights we gain to develop better communication strategies and improve the relationships among our team members, we may discover the work to be far less draining and much more productive.

Disabling Punishment: Developing solutions to the disparate loss of instruction for students with disabilities due to discipline

Kim Gibbons, Director, CAREI

Amber Humm Patnode, Associate Director, CAREI

Discipline in schools is often categorized as either exclusionary (e.g., out-of-school suspension) or inclusionary (e.g., after-school detention). It is well established in the research literature that students with disabilities are punished far more often than their nondisabled peers resulting in increased negative outcomes. As a result, many questions have been raised among educators and policymakers about equity in school punishment and whether effective alternatives exist. This session will provide examples of how to select and analyze data to determine whether disproportionality exists in a school or district's discipline practices and how these data may be used as part of a continuous improvement cycle to improved school discipline outcomes.

Building our Community: One story at a time

Janell Bullard, Director of Special Education, MAWSECO

Wendy Cirkesena, Director of Special Services, Owatonna Schools

Michelle Cuka, Special Services Supervisor, Eastern Carver County Schools

Amy Ernst, Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools

Sarah Stack, Director of Special Education, Minneapolis Public Schools

Join your fellow MASE members as we demystify the legislative process and show you how important, valuable and easy it is to connect with your local legislators. Our legislators are members of our community, and now is the time to connect with them to share your story. Learn from fellow members strategies to personalize what at times appears impersonal, procedural and downright intimidating. We are all excellent relationship builders and are naturally story-tellers. Join us to learn how to combine the two to build a greater connection with our legislative community members.

Sexuality for All Abilities: Supporting sexual health for students with disabilities

Katie Thune, MA Ed., Mad Hatter Wellness

Students with disabilities want friendships and relationships as much as anyone else. Unfortunately, there is a lack of appropriate education out there to support safe and healthy relationships. The rate of sexual assault is seven times higher for individuals with disabilities than for those without. We can work together to lower that statistic by supporting the sexual health of this population through conversations, education, and awareness.

2:45 – 3 pm

Break in the Exhibit Area

3 – 4:45 pm

General Session

MASE Annual Meeting

Join your colleagues for the MASE Annual Meeting, a chance to get updated on Association activities, hear from State Special Education Director Robyn Widley, and participate in an activity to “make meaning” of the MASE Strategic Plan for your region. One lucky participant’s district will win an Amazon Echo, a hands-free speaker you control with your voice. Echo connects to the Alexa Voice Service to play music, provide information, news, sports scores, weather, and more—instantly. Must be present to win!

4:30 – 5 pm

Silent Auction Final Bidding in Exhibit Area

5 – 6 pm

Reception in the Exhibit Area Silent Auction Cashier Open

Grab Bag Wine Sale

Every bottle of wine is the same price ... but bottles will be hidden in beautiful wine bags tied with red, white, or pink ribbons. The ribbons are your only hints! You might get “Three Buck Chuck,” or you might get Chateau Lafitte Rothschild Bordeaux (well, probably not, but something really great anyway!).

6 pm

Dinner and Program:

MASE Legacy Award
Gary Lewis, Recipient

8 – 10 pm

The Pumpkin Patch Bash

Friday, October 26

7:30 - 9 am

Breakfast

8:30 am

Registration Open

9 – 10:15 am

Breakout Sessions

FBA Workgroup Summary: A Panel Discussion

Duane Borgeson, Executive Director, Moorhead Public Schools
Marikay Litzau, Director of Compliance & Assistance, MDE
Carla Ptacek, Executive Director, Runestone Area Education District

We will provide a summary of the FBA Workgroup process and share tools developed by the work. Two Special Education Directors will share how they have used the tools in their districts.

Getting to the Core of 504 Plans: A Section 504 procedures checklist

Elizabeth Meske, Attorney, Ratwik Roszak & Maloney PA
Christian Shafer, Attorney, Ratwik Roszak & Maloney PA

What is the difference between an IEP and 504 Plan? What factors should be considered when deciding to use one over the other? How do you draft a good 504 Plan? Find out the answers to these questions and many more. Special education lawyers will provide practical and user-friendly guidance on Section

504 procedures and limiting your school's liability.

From the Schoolhouse to the Courthouse: Special education cases, guidance, legislation, and other developments

Peter Martin, Attorney, Knutson, Flynn & Deans, P.A.

Attorney Peter Martin kicks off the conference with an overview of the most important cases, and administrative decisions of the past year, as well as legislative developments — enhanced by Peter's professional commentary on how they affect your everyday efforts to be compliant with special education laws.

Another Day Another 1:1 Need: What to do when the “solution” feels like a new problem

Wendy Selnes, Senior Behavior Analyst, Brih Design, LLC

Special Education teams are often faced with the request for a 'solution' in a situation of challenging student behavior for a 1:1 paraprofessional support. Whether through experience, empirical evidence or lore, we know at the point of the request this 'solution' will also create more challenges and may make the entire situation ultimately more difficult to change. And yet we are left with few or no other resource options to offer in addressing the presenting situation. This session will propose a model of training paraprofessionals that will increase their effectiveness in any situation and reduce the likelihood that adding more paraprofessional resource will increase or reinforce some of the negative student behavior patterns. Further, resources for training paraprofessionals in these basic positive based practices will be presented.

Unpacking Reasons for Chronic Absenteeism Among Secondary Students

Kim Gibbons, Director, CAREI

Amber Humm Patnode, Associate Director, CAREI

In any given school year, 5-8 million students are chronically absent, which can result in adverse student outcomes. In order to develop interventions likely to improve attendance, they must be matched to the reasons students are absent. This session provides an overview of tools designed to measure reasons for chronic absenteeism among secondary students and provide educators with necessary information to inform intervention development.

Supporting Teachers' Use of Data to Improve Children's Early Writing Outcomes

Seyma Birinci, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

Stacey Brandjord, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

Elizabeth Lam, Project Coordinator, University of Minnesota

Nicole McKeveatt, Graduate Research Assistant, University of Minnesota

Kristen McMaster, Principle Investigator, University of Minnesota

This presentation will describe The Early Writing Project, a professional development system that shows promise for improving teachers' knowledge and skills in data-based instruction (DBI) and the writing outcomes of students with significant writing needs. In this project, researchers at the Universities of Minnesota and Missouri have partnered with local administrators and teachers to refine and implement this comprehensive system. Presenters will detail the components of The Early Writing Project: Tools (curriculum-based measures in early writing and an early writing intervention toolkit), Learning (a professional development package), and Collaborative Support (coaching). Presenters will also describe how the professional development package was designed, provide insights on promoting effective implementation, while balancing competing priorities, and present the results of the pilot study, where DBI teachers reliably outperformed control teachers on a measure of DBI knowledge and skills at posttest and shifted to a more explicit instructional orientation in writing than control teachers. Additionally, students who participated in the study outperformed their peers in the control group on proximal measures of student performance, on average. (On distal measures, effect sizes were small.) Finally, presenters will describe the next phase of research with The Early Writing Project and answer questions on ways to support professional development in data-based instruction for current teachers.

10:15 – 10:45 am

Break & Lodging Check Out

10:45 am – Noon

Closing Session

Retiree Panel:

Moderator

Nan Records, Regional Low Incidence Facilitator Sourcewell and Retiree Representative to the MASE Board of Directors

In this session, a panel of four experienced special education directors (retirees), moderated by Nan Records, will discuss their perspectives on:

- Building community
- Developing relationships
- Addressing staffing shortages and recruiting teachers
- Creating systems that support teachers and leaders
- Supporting skilled instruction
- Working with building administrators.

Noon

Lunch