

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education

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News Release

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Erin Toninato Selected as MASE Executive Director

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE) Board of Directors has selected Erin Toninato to succeed John Klaber as the next MASE Executive Director, starting July 1, 2022. Toninato brings a wealth of experience to this role, including her work as a special education administrator, teacher, and paraprofessional. She currently serves as the Director of Special Education for the South Central Service Cooperative. Toninato’s work continually reflects her commitment to students with disabilities, and her leadership enables her to create systems that support high standards and positive outcomes for all students.

“I am truly humbled, honored, and excited to be selected as the new Executive Director. MASE leaders do exceptional work on behalf of students with disabilities in Minnesota, and I am committed to supporting that work. This organization has been, and continues to be, a key contributor to my professional growth and success,” said Erin Toninato. “I look forward to building and enhancing what is already a solid foundation through collaboration and organizational growth. I could not be prouder to work among such an exceptional group of special education leaders and am thankful for the opportunity to serve the members in this capacity.”

An active MASE member, Toninato has served on the MASE Board of Directors for multiple years as an Area Representative and Secretary. She has actively participated in numerous MASE committees including legislative, membership, business partners, and nominations. She has also served on the Governor's Blind/ Visually Impaired Advisory Commission and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Advisory Board. Toninato established the MASE Mindful Minute and continues to co-support MASE members through weekly mindfulness prompts. She has also shared her knowledge and expertise by presenting to the MASE New Leader's Cohort and her colleagues on Slice of Collaboration.

Toninato’s exceptional leadership was recognized when she was named the 2018 MASE Special Education Administrator of the Year.

MASE is excited to welcome Erin Toninato to this important role serving the MASE mission of building strong leaders who work on behalf of students with disabilities, and the association is grateful for her willingness to lead.

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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