

Presenter List
MASE New Leaders Cohort Session
January 18, 2023
Minneapolis Marriott NW, Brooklyn Park

Melanie Kray

Executive Director of Special Services
SW Metro Intermediate #288-06
4601 Dean Lakes Blvd.
Shakopee, MN 55379
952-567-8117
mkray@swmetro.k12.mn.us

Melanie Kray has been a special education director for the past 9 years, currently serving as the Executive Director of Special Services at SouthWest Metro Intermediate District. Prior to working as an administrator, Melanie worked as a school psychologist for 19 years. As a school psychologist, she worked for Southern Plains Educational Cooperative, SWWC Service Cooperative and Central Public Schools. She has been active in designing and implementing creative programs to meet the needs for students with disabilities. She is the co-chair of the MASE Professional Development Committee.

Holle Spessard

Director of Special Education, RLIF for Region 9
South Central Service Cooperative
2075 Lookout Dr
North Mankato, MN 56003
507-389-1914
hspessard@mncsc.org

Holle Spessard has been a special services administrator for the past 12 years, currently serving the South Central Service Cooperative as the Director of Special Education, RLIF for Region 9. She previously served as the Director of Special Services for Tri-City United Schools. Prior to working as an administrator, Holle worked as a level IV EBD teacher for Benton-Stearns Education District and prior to being a teacher, she worked as a paraprofessional. She has been active in the development of programming for students with developmental/cognitive disabilities within her district and she strives to continue to enhance opportunities for students. Holle is an active member of MASE and is the co-chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Amy Ernst

Director of Special Education
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose Schools
214 1st Avenue NE
Buffalo, MN 55313-1697

aernst@bhmschools.org
763-682-8721

Amy Ernst is the Director of Special Education for Buffalo Hanover Montrose School District. This is her 8th year serving BHM schools and her 14th year in special education leadership. Prior to her role as an administrator, Amy was a special education teacher in the Monticello School District. She is currently also an adjunct professor in Educational Administration and Leadership for St. Cloud State University. Outside of school, you can find her spending her time with her husband Mark, four daughters and two step-sons. Amy was the 2019 recipient of the MASE New Special Education Leader Award.

Dr. Melissa Schaller

Executive Director of Student Services
Intermediate School District 917
1300 145th Street East
Rosemount, MN 55068
651-423-8204
melissa.schaller@isd917.org

Melissa Schaller is the Executive Director of Student Services for Intermediate School District 917 where she has worked since 2008. Melissa is responsible for oversight of district special education programming among other duties which includes approximately 25 sites, nearly 600 staff, and a budget of more than 40 million dollars. Prior to joining ISD 917, Melissa was the Director of Special Education for the Austin Public School District. She has served many state level organizations in the field of education including serving as president of the executive board of both Minnesota Administrators for Special Education and Minnesota Council for Exceptional Children. Recently, she completed her PhD at the University of Minnesota in Organizational Leadership, Policy, and Development.

Dave Haveman

Executive Director of Services
Lakeville Area Public Schools
17630 Juniper Path, Suite A
Lakeville, MN 55044
952-232-2017
Dave.haveman@isd914.org

Dave Haveman is the husband to Tammie, and dad to four fantastic kids, ages 11 - 20. Throughout a 26 year career as a special educator and administrator, he's worked with traditional districts, charter schools, intermediates and non-publics. The traditional districts include ISD 917, St. Paul Public Schools, South Washington County Schools and Hastings Public Schools. Currently Dave serves as the Executive Director of Student Services for Lakeville Area Schools where his role leads the programming and

budgeting for a multitude of sites and programs. He loves to work with dedicated education professionals to meet student needs, support/mentor staff, and grow leaders in the field. Dave is passionate about building a healthy and complementary team marked by systems, adaptability, and gratitude. The positive team culture is essential to meet student needs while having some fun along the way.

Lori Zimmerman, Ed.D

Director of Professional Learning
Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA)
Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE)
Cell: 651-295-7761
lori.zimmerman@mnasa.org

Prior to serving as MASA's new Director of Professional Learning, Lori spent 31 years in education working with students, families and colleagues from birth through transition programming. As you can imagine, those experiences taught her a lot of things - not the least of which was how to communicate challenging information. Lori is here today to share with us her best tips and strategies for times we are called upon to engage in difficult communications.

Dr. Sarah Mittelstadt

Executive Director
Southern Plains Ed. Cooperative
1200 North Park Street
Fairmont, MN 56031
District Phone: 507-238-1472
sarah.mittelstadt@southernplainsedcoop.org

Dr. Sarah Mittelstadt has worked in special education for more years than she cares to admit. She brings experience as a speech and language pathologist, coordinator, principal, and director. Most recently Dr. Mittelstadt has been the Executive Director for Southern Plains Education Cooperative which services rural school districts in south central Minnesota. She obtained her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees all through St Cloud State University.

Dr. Mittelstadt credits her work survival on her colleagues within MASE. One of her greatest honors was being asked to be President of MASE which ended up being an interesting journey during the pandemic. As a result, she was able to be actively involved in the implementation of Slice. Her personal survival is to the credit of her husband Brian who keeps her on track at home and plans wonderful vacations to help her rejuvenate. Her greatest honor was to be the mother to Annie (a special education teacher) and Martin (an engineering major at SDSU).

Scott Hare

Director of Student Special Services

Mankato Area Public Schools
10 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 3
Mankato, MN 56001
507-387-1818
share1@isd77.k12.mn.us

Scott Hare, Director of Student Support Services for Mankato Area Public Schools since July 2017. Scott has over 20 years of administrative experience in a variety of Minnesota school districts. He has served as a director of special education, HR director, high school principal, dean of students, and as a high school teacher for both special and regular education students. Scott has been a past president of the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education and is the 2019 MASE Special Education Director of the Year.

Stacey Dahlby

Director of Special Education for Secondary Schools
Anoka-Hennepin School District
2727 Ferry Street North
Anoka, MN 55303
763-506-1353
stacey.dahlby@ahschools.us

Stacey Dahlby is the Director of Special Education for Secondary Schools with Anoka - Hennepin Schools. As the director, Stacey has oversight of middle and high school, transition, and k-12 setting IV programs. This is Stacey's fourth year with Anoka-Hennepin Schools.

Prior to Anoka-Hennepin, Stacey served as an Interim assistant special education director, supervisor of student support services, school psychologist, autism inclusion specialist and adjunct lecturer. She has worked in the school districts of Edina, Roseville, and Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan.

Stacey earned her bachelor of science in child study from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, master's in school psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and director of special education license from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities.