Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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Dr. Ken Dragseth Receives the MASA Distinguished Service Award

(St. Paul, Minn.) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Ken Dragseth recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Dragseth received his award for his support of the children of Minnesota and for his contributions in activities that have improved Minnesota's public education system. He will be honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 9-10, 2017, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

For the past 48 years, Dr. Dragseth has been an advocate for our nation's children and public schools. Since 2005, Dr. Dragseth has been serving as the President of School Exec Connect, which specializes in superintendent searches and program and leadership support to school boards and district personnel.

Dr. Dragseth was the Superintendent at Edina Public Schools from for 14 years from 1992-2006. During his tenure, Dr. Dragseth worked to insure the maximum development of students through a number of initiatives supportive of student achievement including being the architect of one of the first successful district-wide plans to alter school start times to accommodate adolescent sleep patterns and his leadership in the consortium of school districts across the region to promote desegregation.

Prior to his superintendency, Dr. Dragseth served Edina Public Schools as Dean of Students, Director of Curriculum, Middle School Principal, and Assistant Superintendent. As an Edina administrator, he participated on a team that created the West Metro Education Program, the first successful voluntary integration program in the country.

Dr. Dragseth has conducted local, state and national workshops on a variety of topics including board/superintendent relationships, high school start time, gender bias issues, ethical values, data-based decision-making and leadership skills. He has published numerous articles in national and state journals.

His honors include: National Superintendent of the year, 2003, American Association of School Administrators; Minnesota Superintendent of the Year, 2002; Executive Educators Top 100 Educators; University of Minnesota College of Education Distinguished Leadership Award; 100 Distinguished Alumni Award and 150 Distinguished Alumni Award (Gustavus Adolphus College).

Dr. Dragseth holds doctoral and master's degrees from the University of Minnesota, and a bachelor's degree (Magna Cum Laude) from Gustavus Adolphus College. He participated in the Harvard University Superintendent's Summer Seminar in 2002, and was a Fellow in the Bush Public Schools Executive Development Program (1992-93).

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota's school leaders, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of special education, and other central office administrators, as well as state department administrators, college, and university professors, and other educators throughout Minnesota dedicated to educational leadership for students.

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