Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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Janet Mohr Receives MASA Distinguished Service Award

(St. Paul, Minn.) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Janet Mohr, Retired Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of School Administrators (BOSA), recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Mohr received this award for her support of the children of Minnesota and for her contributions in activities that have improved Minnesota's public education system. She will be honored at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 7-8, 2019, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

"Janet has worked tirelessly on behalf of students, families, the community, and her colleagues. She simply exemplifies what it means to live a life of service," said Dr. Deb Henton, Superintendent of North Branch Public Schools. "Janet's service has made a difference in the communities she served and state-wide. We have all benefitted from her tireless service and will for years to come as she has led accreditation efforts for many of the state's colleges and universities and assisted in establishing high standards of conduct for all licensed administrators.

For more than 40 years, Janet Mohr worked to serve public education in Minnesota by positively contributing to the lives of children, families, and communities. During her extensive career in public education, Mohr held an impressive amount of titles including: superintendent, principal, assistant principal, director of mental health, school psychologist, director of special education, associate professor, and high-school teacher. The districts she has served include the East Metro Integration District 6067, Northeast Metro Intermediate School District 916, Argosy University, Minnesota State University-Moorhead, Frazee-Vergas Public Schools, Detroit Lakes Public Schools, and the Buffalo Valley Special Education Cooperative in North Dakota.

Mohr retired in 2017 after serving as the Executive Director of BOSA. During her tenure with BOSA, Mohr worked closely with the Governor's staff including the Commissioner of Education along with numerous elected officials holding leading positions in the state legislature. Mohr worked with a wide variety of issues and people on a daily basis. These daily interactions included assisting educators seeking leadership roles across the state, supporting programs preparing educators for school leadership, consulting administrators, and dealing with concerns from community members impacted by the work of these new administrators, as well as cooperating with organizations and legislators influencing the operations of public education. Through her tireless efforts and integrity, Mohr was able to carry education issues forward and had courageous conversations on behalf of all involved in the Minnesota educational system.

"I consider Mrs. Mohr to be a role model. She is someone I want to be more like professionally and personally. Janet exemplifies 'all things good.' She is a capacity builder and a difference maker," said Dr. Tracy Reimer, Leadership in K-12 Administration Program Director at Bethel University. "In my 22 years in the field of education, Janet is the most highly and widely respected leader I have worked with, which is a reflection of her impeccable character, exemplary skill level, and unparalleled commitment to Minnesota public education."

Mohr was an active member in numerous facets of MASA including committees, conference presenter, and as past-chair and current member of the MASA Foundation Board of Directors. Her professional association membership involvement also includes the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, Minnesota School Boards Association, Minnesota Administrators for Special Education, Minnesota Rural Education Association, American Association of School Administrators, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, National and Minnesota Association of School Psychologists, Minnesota and National Principals Associations, Education Minnesota, and the National Education Association.

During the past 30 years, Mohr served on several professional boards and committees such as: Chair of the Benedictine Health Care System in Duluth, MN; Chair of the St. Mary's Hospital Board in Detroit Lakes, MN; Director of the Fairview Ridges Hospital in Burnsville, MN and Chair of the Lead Quality and Medical Staff Credentialing; Director of Rotary International; Vice-Chair of the University of Wisconsin–Superior Foundation Board; Chair of the United Methodist Church Council; Vice-Chair of the SJE Rhombus Manufacturing Corporation; Director of Young Life; Co-Owner of Worldwide Brochures and Mohr Manufacturing; and President of the Intra-American Student Programs.

Mohr's honors and awards have included MASA's Administrator of Excellence Award, Benedictine Health System's Trustee of the Year Award, and Minnesota School Psychologist Association's School Psychologist of Excellence Award. She was nominated for the Minnesota Small Business Administration's Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Mohr also had the honor to be invited to present her research on predicting a high school dropout at the National School Psychology Association Conference in Washington D.C.

Mohr received her education specialist and master's degree from Minnesota State University-Moorhead and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

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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