Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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Dr. Josh Swanson Receives Outstanding Central Office Leader Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Josh Swanson, Assistant Superintendent at Eden Prairie Schools, the recipient of the 2017 Outstanding Central Office Leader Award. Dr. Swanson received this award for exhibiting a willingness to risk, possessing strong communications skills, being a progressive change agent, and having high expectations for himself and others. 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.

During his time at Eden Prairie Schools, Dr. Swanson and his team have taken the district through a digital transformation for all students, early childhood through secondary school, with the focus on meeting the needs of each student in a personalized learning environment, while also eliminating achievement and access disparities that exist. The transition to a highly student centered and personalized approach is a great journey, and Eden Prairie Schools has seen great gains over the past several years including third grade reading gaps closing, post-secondary attendance of graduates rising, and post-secondary success increasing across racial and socioeconomic groups.

Dr. Swanson has been an active member and leader in many professional associations over the past 15 years including: president of Phi Delta Kappa MN, chair of the TIES Coordinators, TIES Executive Board Coordinator representative and MASA Technology Component Group Region 9 board representative. He was a member of the team that initiated the conversation and creation of the MASA Technology Component group while working collaboratively with the Association and Educational Technology Leaders from across the state.

Prior to his current position at Eden Prairie Schools, Dr. Swanson has served as a paraprofessional, teacher, coach, athletic director, assistant principal, consultant, student support services administrator, director of technology and information services, and executive director of technology in several different districts across the state.

Dr. Swanson earned his bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas, a master's degree and post master's certificates from St. Mary's University, and was the recipient of the Outstanding Dissertation Award when he completed his doctorate in Educational Leadership from St. Mary's University.

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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