

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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P R E S S
R E L E A S E

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Jerald Nesland Receives Minnesota Association of School Administrators Polaris Leadership Award

(St. Paul, MN) – the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Jerald Nesland, Executive Director of the Freshwater Education District, the recipient of the MASA Polaris Leadership Award. Mr. Nesland will be honored for his exemplary school leadership and a lifetime of balanced achievement inside and outside of education at a statewide recognition ceremony to be held at the 2014 MASA Fall Conference, September 28-30, in Brainerd, Minnesota. This award is presented with the support of Ehlers and Associates.

Polaris, the “North Star”, themes this award because, just as exemplary administrators serve as definitive leaders, Polaris is constant and unmoving in the sky. A navigator’s benchmark, the star marks “true north”, the fundamental direction that defines east, west and south. With this award, Mr. Nesland is recognized for qualities such as; professional courage, creation of a legacy of excellent leadership, fostering innovation, contribution through example and mentoring, exemplary conduct reflecting integrity and bearing emulation, and significant tenure in each position to support district vision and affect positive change.

In a letter of support for Mr. Nesland’s nomination, Sebeka School District’s Superintendent David Fjeldheim wrote, “Jerry has devoted his entire professional career to Pre-K-12 public education and has mentored numerous superintendents to become leaders in their schools. He is a quality and deserving candidate whose insights and intuitive skills set him apart from many practicing administrators.”

Mr. Nesland has over 40 years of education administration, ranging from principal to community education director to superintendent. He has been serving the Freshwater Education District since 2010. As an active member of his community, Mr. Nesland has held Jaycee, Lions and other organization offices, as well as a civic and commerce presidency. Mr. Nesland holds a master’s degree in secondary and educational administration from St. Cloud State University and a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and geography from Minnesota State University Moorhead.

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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