

# Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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**Electronic versions of this press release are available. Please email Dave Christians at MASA ([dchristians@mnasa.org](mailto:dchristians@mnasa.org)) to request copies.**

## Superintendent Tom Bruels Named Administrator of Excellence

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Tom Bruels, Superintendent at St. Clair Public Schools, as a 2016 Administrator of Excellence. Bruels has received this award in recognition of his leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. Bruels was honored with the Administrator of Excellence Award at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 10-11, 2016, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest, Brooklyn Park.

Bruels' achievements reflect his ability to lead important changes in the educational system. During his career, Bruels has collaborated with key stakeholders of the St. Clair School District to stabilize the school district budget and rebuild the general fund balance, pass two operating referendums with the most recent one garnering approval of 87% of the voters, create a school district of choice resulting in a sizable net gain of students through open enrollment, and support the implementation of technology making the St. Clair Public Schools a statewide leader in technology integration. Additionally, Bruels has had role in hiring and retaining an excellent cadre of classroom teachers and support personnel, developing a long-term, strategic plan that has been used to guide school district initiatives, and improving school safety and emergency preparedness by working cooperatively with other local school districts and the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office.

Bruels has been an active MASA member for 12 years. He has served on MASA's regional and state-level finance and policy legislative committees, frequently attended lobbying efforts at the State Capitol advocating for MASA's legislative platform, testified before the Legislative Conference Committee regarding educational issues, and has mentored regional MASA members new to their new superintendency roles.

Bruels is also active in many community and regional organizations. He is a member of the Region V Computer Services Governance Board, the Minnesota Valley Education District Superintendent Advisory Committee, and presented at the 2016 Minnesota School Boards Association's (MSBA) Leadership Conference. Bruels also received the 2012 State Recognition, School Administrator Award from the Minnesota Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA).

Bruels earned his superintendent license from St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota, and his sixth-year certificate in education administration from Minnesota State University-Mankato. Bruels holds a master's degree in educational administration education from Minnesota State University-Mankato and a bachelor's degree in elementary Education from St. John's University in Collegeville, MN.

Each year, MASA recognizes members for their contribution to public education. MASA is a professional organization of Minnesota's school leaders whose members include over 900 public education and non-public superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, other central office administrators, service providers, business partners and retirees.

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