

Minnesota Association of School Administrators
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News Release

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Dr. Deb Henton Will Lead School Administrators' Association

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) is pleased to announce that Dr. Deb Henton will become the association's Executive Director on July 1, 2020. Dr. Henton currently serves as Superintendent of the North Branch Area Public Schools in North Branch, Minnesota.

Dr. Henton will replace Dr. Gary Amoroso, who is retiring after nine years in the role of MASA Executive Director.

"I am honored and excited to be the next Executive Director of MASA whose members serve as the leading voice for public education in the state of Minnesota," says Dr. Henton. "MASA has a solid foundation and outstanding history of advocacy on education issues of state and national importance. I look forward to supporting the professional needs of the membership, collaborating with our business partners, working to advance equity in public education for all students, and building upon the many successful efforts of the past."

Dr. Henton brings a wealth of experience to this role, including her work as an administrator in rural, urban, and suburban public school districts. An active MASA member, Dr. Henton is the 2019-2020 MASA Past President. She has served for multiple years on the MASA Professional Assistance Team. She has led the MASA Legislative Committee and has lobbied on behalf of public education at both the state and federal levels. Dr. Henton is a longstanding member of the MASA Foundation Board of Directors. She is also actively involved with Schools for Equity in Education, the Board of School Administrators (of which she is the current chair), and Resource Training and Solutions.

Prior to her 13-year tenure in North Branch, Dr. Henton served as a junior and senior high school social studies teacher and assistant principal in the South Washington County School District where she was named Woodbury's 1995 Teacher of the Year. She later served as an Assistant Principal at Stillwater Area High School and Principal at Harding High School, where she led for five years before being promoted to St. Paul's Executive Director of Alternative Learning Programs. While Principal of Harding, Dr. Henton was named the 2004 MASSP Capitol Division Principal of the Year. In 2006, she was appointed the Chief of Staff for Saint Paul Public Schools, where her primary responsibility was developing the district's five-year strategic plan. In 2007, Dr. Henton began serving as the Superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools.

Dr. Henton's many honors include: 2018 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year, 2015 Administrator of Excellence for MASA's Region 6, and the 2014 MASA Kay E. Jacobs Memorial Award. She was named the 2011 eSchool News Tech-Savvy Superintendent and the 2013 Outstanding Service Award recipient from the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

Dr. Henton earned a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership, a master's degree in Education, and an Educational Administrative Licensure from Saint Mary's University. She received a bachelor's degree in Social Studies from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

MASA is a professional organization serving Minnesota's education administrators. As advocates of a world-class education for Minnesota's learners, MASA's members serve as the leading voice for public education, shape and influence the State and National education agenda, and empower leaders through high quality professional learning, services and support. MASA represents over 600 members who are school superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum leaders, other central office administrators, regional administrators, and higher education administrators and professors throughout Minnesota.

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