

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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Superintendent Cathy Bettino Named Administrator of Excellence

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Cathy Bettino, Superintendent at Pine River-Backus Schools, as a 2016 Administrator of Excellence. Bettino has received this award in recognition of her leadership, concern for students, and active involvement in professional and community affairs. Bettino was honored for 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.

Bettino's achievements reflect her ability to lead important changes in the educational system. During her career, Bettino has facilitated the strategic planning within her district including the engagement, development, implementation and evaluation. She has created ongoing communication efforts with internal and external audiences with the end result of building a positive, productive and proud school and community culture. Bettino has worked to stimulate academic growth with a special emphasis on social and emotional development. She has led her district towards embracing technology advancements directed towards 1:1 initiatives for students and devices and has ensured that facilities are maintained and enhanced to respond to today's students' needs. In addition, Bettino developed the Community Read program to expand reading age and, develop compelling topics and bring great authors, storytellers, historians and artists to the district for their annual celebration.

Bettino has been an active MASA member for 12 years. She has been involved as the MASA Region 5 Secretary, participated in the Great Start Cohort for new superintendents, the Mentor Program, and has served on MASA's finance, policy and legislative committees. Bettino is also a member of the Cass County Leech Lake Reservation Children's Initiative, Working Together Coalition, Pine River Economic Development, and the Infinity Online Learning Program.

Bettino holds a specialist degree in educational leadership from Minnesota State University-Mankato and master's degree in school communications from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey. She received her bachelor's degree in secondary education and anthropology/psychology from Trenton State College in Trenton, New Jersey, and Drew University in Madison, New Jersey.

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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