

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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News Release

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Jennifer Hegna Receives Kay E. Jacob's Memorial Award

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Jennifer Hegna, Director of Information and Learning Technology at Byron Public Schools, as the recipient of the 2016 Kay E. Jacob's Memorial Award. The award recognizes excellent leadership and involvement provided to MASA and other educational organizations by a female administrator with ten or less years of administrative experience. Hegna will be honored for her leadership, concern for students and active involvement in professional and community affairs at a statewide recognition ceremony during the MASA/MASE Spring Conference, March 10-11, 2016, at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest in Brooklyn Park.

During her time at Byron Public Schools, Hegna has led several innovative initiatives such as the district's 1:1 7-12 iPad rollout, a district-wide personalized professional development program, and the technology planning design of classrooms, learning spaces, and schools, including new building technology planning.

"Jen is extremely supportive of teachers. She is a techie with a teacher's heart," Byron Public School teachers Stacy Warnke and Jen Green wrote in their letter of support.

Hegna worked with Winona State University in the development of the Innovative Instructional Leadership Certificate, a 15 graduate credit certificate program that can also serve as an emphasis area in WSU's education leadership master's of science program. She currently is an adjunct professor in the program and intends on publishing all of the courses with a creative commons license for other districts, universities, and regional consortiums to use, adapt, and share with others.

"Ms. Hegna works tirelessly to provide professional development and learning opportunities for all staff. I believe that her commitment to professional development centers around the mantra 'firm on intent and flexible on solution,'" wrote Byron Public Schools Superintendent Jeffrey Elstad in his letter of support. "This spirit is exemplified best through her efforts to promote 21st century teaching skills by developing an incentivized professional development program centered on our mission to learn, share, innovate and inspire."

Hegna strives to be a transparent leader and continues to collaborate with and mentor other educational organizations and leaders in areas of planning, supporting, and envisioning 21st century student-centered learning environments including blended learning, ubiquitous computing, personalized professional development models, and change leadership. She has been an active member in many educational organizations. Her memberships include: MASA, Southeast Minnesota Technology Integration Group (SEMNTig), #MNLEAD as a contributor/leader, Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC), Southeast MN Technology Coordinators (SEMTEC), Southeast Minnesota Network (SEMNET) as the regional coordinator until 2010, Minnesota Regional Telecommunications Coordinators committee and the (re)Design Advisory Panel for Winona State University Teacher Prep program.

Hegna was the recipient of the 2015 Minnesota Technology Leader of the Year Award at the TIES Conference. She also played a supporting role in the district achieving the 2011 Intel School of Distinction award for their Innovative Math Program.

Hegna holds a master's degree in information and communication technology with an emphasis in eLearning from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. She received her bachelor's degree in business information systems from Bellevue University and an associate's degree in electronic technology from Riverland Community College.

The Memorial Award was established in 1983 in honor of Kay E. Jacobs, an outstanding young administrator of many achievements who died in a car accident in 1979. At the time of her death, Ms. Jacobs was the assistant superintendent for the Mahtomedi Schools and had just been nominated, through a national screening process, for membership in the 38th Annual Superintendents' Work Conference at Teachers' College, Columbia University. This was a distinct honor, because only forty-five outstanding chief school officers from school systems throughout the United States had been invited to participate. The Memorial Award recognizes women administrators who have demonstrated the attributes of leadership and involvement early in their careers as Kay Jacobs did.

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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