



MASA

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

1884 Como Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55108
voice/651-645-6272 • toll free/866-444-5251
fax/651-645-7518
email/members@mnasa.org
website/www.mnasa.org
Gary M. Amoroso, Ph.D.,
Executive Director

MEDIA Advisory
September 23, 2019

For Immediate Release

Contact: Mia Urick
Director of Professional Learning
651-645-6272 • urickm@mnasa.org

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

Michelle Mortensen Named MASA Richard Green Scholar

(St. Paul, MN) – The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has named Dr. Michelle Mortensen, Superintendent of the Renville County West Schools, the 2019 Richard Green Scholar. Dr. Mortensen will present her paper, “Female Superintendent Perceptions of Challenges in Seeking and Serving in the Position of Superintendent of Schools” at the MASA Fall Conference, October 7-8, in Duluth, Minnesota.

MASA established the Richard Green Scholars Program in 2006 to honor the scholarly work and professional development of Minnesota school leaders. The program is an annual recognition of the research, writing, and presentation of a paper reflecting the practice of excellent school leadership. Scholar candidates apply for the program and a subcommittee of the MASA Executive Development Committee selects the recipient.

Dr. Mortensen has been a superintendent in Minnesota since 2011, first with Ivanhoe Public Schools, and, since 2013, in her current position. Before serving in those leadership roles in Minnesota, she was a principal and elementary teacher in Nebraska. Dr. Mortensen holds a doctorate in educational administration and leadership from St. Cloud State University.

Dr. Mortensen’s study describes how, throughout the United States, female educators outnumber males in K-12 public school teaching positions and in university educational leadership programs; however, males fill the majority of public school superintendent positions. In general, there is a perception that insufficient qualified female superintendent candidates exist, but Dr. Mortensen concludes that overall, the female superintendents within the study “showed tenacity and were awe-inspiring.” Dr. Mortensen’s research will be posted on the MASA web site at <https://www.mnasa.org/domain/157>.

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.

MASA is grateful to Cuningham Group Architecture, Inc. for their ongoing support of the Richard Green Scholars Program. Cuningham Group exists to Uplift the Human Experience, a vision embodying their passion for design and its impact on their clients, communities, and the world.

###