

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

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P R E S S
R E L E A S E

Electronic versions of this press release and Dr. Orcutt's photograph are available. Please send an email to MASA (members@mnasa.org) to request copies.

Karen Orcutt is MASA 2008 Richard Green Scholar



Dr. Orcutt

(St. Paul, Minn.) — The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASrA) has named **Dr. Karen Orcutt**, Superintendent of the Orono Schools, as its 2008 Richard Green Scholar. Dr. Orcutt will present her research, “*Characteristics of Resiliency in Leadership: Implications for Personal and Organizational Coping and Adapting Abilities*,” at MASA’s annual statewide convention of school administrators this fall.

MASA, with the support of Cuningham Group Architecture, 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.

“I am so very honored,” says Dr. Orcutt. “This is important research supporting administrators’ abilities to be successful, both personally and professionally. I am privileged to receive the endorsement of my colleagues to produce work that might in turn support them.”

Former recipients are

2006: Dr. Diane J. Rauschenfels, Superintendent, Proctor Schools, for her research, “*Promoting Ethical Educational Leadership*,” and

2007: Dr. Mark Wolak, Superintendent, Mahtomedi Schools, for his study, “*Advancing Professional Practice for School Superintendents: Linking Effective Research with Effective Implementation*.”

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Information about the scholars program and copies of the research papers are available online at <http://www.mnasa.org/RGreenScholar.htm>.

“MASA members value life-long learning,” says MASA Executive Director Charlie Kyte, “and a critical focus for us as a professional association is the promotion of personal and professional development. Our goal is to support a professional learning community that inspires critical thinking and assessment of practice, and to recognize the importance of collegial relationships in professional development. The tradition of the presentation of our members’ work at conferences is a reflection of those values, and Karen’s research is a fitting model of the dedication to scholarship that is at the root of innovation in the practice of educational leadership.”

The *Richard Green Scholars Program* was named to honor former Minneapolis Superintendent Richard R. Green, who modeled innovation and distinction in the child-centered practice of exemplary school leadership.

The program is sponsored by MASA’s business partner member, Cuningham Group Architecture. “For many years, the business community has preached the mantra of ‘schools should act more like business,’” says Cuningham President Tim Dufault. “In reality, the business world of today needs to act more like schools. Workers in the twenty-first century face increasing pressure from world forces demanding that they be more flexible, adaptable and capable of change. This need for flexibility forces the worker to adapt and learn as a critical part of the success of their business in a global economy. The Richard Green Scholarship allows school leaders to research and share their expertise on this evolving world as both teacher and learner.”

MASA is a professional organization whose mission is to establish the statewide agenda for children, serve as the preeminent voice for public education, and empower members through quality services and support. MASA members are school superintendents, directors of special education, other central office school administrators, regional administrators, and higher education administrators and professors from throughout Minnesota.

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