



National Association of
School Superintendents

United in Common Purpose: Each Other's Success

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHLAND PINES SCHOOL DISTRICT'S ADMINISTRATOR NAMED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

EAGLE RIVER, WI – Dr. Mike Richie, Northland Pines District Administrator, was officially named Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents' (NASS) selection panel on August 22, 2012. Richie was selected as one of three semi-finalists for the award in 2011.

The process the selection committee performed was an extensive review and assessment of each candidate's achievement level based on criteria which included:

- Outstanding achievement as a school district superintendent
- Demonstrated belief in continuous improvement, and
- Commitment to collaboration and mutual support in the profession.

NASS Executive Director Dr. Theresa Daem said Richie continues to represent what educational leaders need to be today. "It is clear that our country's educational system faces tremendous challenges and is in need of dynamic and continuously improving leadership." According to Daem, there simply is not one simple "fix" for education. "The real answer is leveraging the collective know-how of stellar district superintendents like Mike Richie. We are very proud to have him as an active member, and we are anticipating many valuable contributions to the profession," she added.

Richie credits his entire district staff and community for the successes bestowed upon him and the district. Some of Richie's more recent achievements include:

- Continued progress toward improving the district's quality of instruction and student achievement
- Developing the Northland Pines School District into a school district of choice
- Aligning his district's curriculum and assessment systems with common core standards
- Implementing School of Options and Applied Research (S.O.A.R.) Charter School
- Developing a certified staff pay scale based on performance
- Saving hundreds of thousands of dollars by implementing an innovative health insurance plan that consists of both a health reimbursement and health savings account
- Designed and implemented certified and support staff handbooks that replaced the collective bargaining agreements

Dr. Richie stated, "On behalf of the Northland Pines School District, I am honored to be recognized by the NASS for our initiatives in education. This recognition is a reflection of the entire district. Our accomplishments could not have been achieved without all of the hard work and commitment to the NPSD from our excellent staff and continued support from our communities".

Richie has served as the Superintendent of the Northland Pines School District since 2004. Richie received his bachelor's degree from UW-La Crosse, master and specialist degrees from UW-Superior and his doctorate degree from Edgewood College in Madison.

A special district celebration ceremony is being planned for **Monday, October 22, 2012** at the **Northland Pines High School** beginning at **6 p.m.** to highlight the district accomplishments that aided Dr. Richie in being recognized as the Superintendent of the Year. The award will be presented to Dr. Richie during a presentation in the Auditorium. More details of the event will be forthcoming and will be posted on the district website: www.npsd.k12.wi.us.

Other semi-finalists included first runner up Brett Stanton of Tallapoosa, Georgia; Reza Namin of Spencer, Massachusetts; Michelle Curry of Orting, Washington; Kathryn Fedina of Saddle Brook, New Jersey; and John Roach of Carlsbad, California. Dr. Richie will be recognized and speak before his peers at the NASS Symposium being held in March 2013 in Newport Beach, California.

The National Association of School Superintendents serves the unique needs of the more than 17,000 school district leaders across the United States by providing them with ongoing opportunities for collaborating and sharing as well as building a collection of resources and benefits. Its website address is www.NASS.us.

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