

Special Education Administrator of the Year, 2021-2022

for the Minnesota School Psychologist Association

I am an education leader currently in PreK-12 Special Education and specialized student support services.

My experience spans rural to urban, medium to large, public school districts in Minnesota.

I am passionate about transforming education to meet the needs of students.

POSITIONS HELD

Director of Student Support Services (2014-present)

Edina Public Schools, Edina, MN

Consultant & Speaker (past & current)

J&C Consulting, LLP

Director of Special Services (2011-2014)

South Washington County Schools, Cottage Grove, MN

Adjunct Faculty Positions (past)

St Mary's University, St Paul, MN

St Cloud State University, St Cloud, MN

MN West Community & Technical College, Granite Falls, MN

Director of Special Education (2005-2011)

Alexandria Public Schools, Alexandria, MN

Director of Special Programs (2002-2005)

Worthington School District, Worthington, MN

School Psychologist (1996-2002)

MN Valley Cooperative Center, Granite Falls, MN

Compliance Peer Monitor

MN Department of Children, Families and Learning

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (1996)

Interim Supervisor of Counseling Services

Counseling Associates, Montevideo, MN

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (1992-1995)

Southwestern Mental Health Center, Pipestone & Windom, MN

Mechanized Infantryman (1985-1988)

US Army

CERTIFICATIONS

Cognitive Coaching

Parent Child Interaction Training

Teacher Child Interaction Training

PREPaRE Crisis Trainer

GiANT Associate Training

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Licensed Director of Special Education

MN Department of Education

Licensed School Psychologist

MN Department of Education

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, inactive

MN Board of Marriage and Family Therapy

EDUCATION

Certificate - Special Education Administration

St Cloud State University, St Cloud, MN

EdS - School Psychology

University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD

MA - Marriage and Family Therapy

North American Baptist Seminary, Sioux Falls, SD

BA - Psychology

University of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, SD

BS - Biology

University of Sioux Falls, Sioux Falls, SD

REFERENCES

Ric Dressen

Former Supt., Edina Public Schools

651.357.2010

John Schultz

Former Supt., Edina Public Schools

612.532.1776

Randal Smasal

Asst. Supt., Edina Public Schools

952.484.2123

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Program Design & Management

- A leader in implementation of best practices in special education, including:
 - universal design principles
 - assistive technology
 - linking assessment to instruction
 - accommodations
 - federal and state regulations
 - integrative collaboratives
- Developed and managed comprehensive continuums of care for disabled and at-risk learners

Consultation & Coaching

- Created and implemented training methods in using Teacher Child Interaction Training (TCIT). My training method has been implemented in multiple school districts in Minnesota, districts ranging in size from small rural to large metro populations.
- Presented this same TCIT training model at the International PCIT (Parent Child Interaction Training) Conference in Gainesville, Florida.
- Served as a certified consultant in educational crisis triage systems (sPREPaRE Crisis Trainer), including needs assessment, program development and training and implementation.
- Speaker, trainer and consultant on a variety of topics in the areas of:
 - mental health
 - crisis interventions
 - behavioral issues and interventions
 - stress and its affect on development, behavior and mental health
 - parenting

Legislative Consulting & Expert Testimony

- Worked closely with Minnesota state legislators on drafting and passage of legislation impacting special education.
- Recognized as a state leader in special education issues.
- Tri-Chair on Minnesota Administrators of Special Education (MASE) Legislative Committee.
- Participated regularly in state-wide quality enhancement projects, including:
 - alternative assessment standard development
 - assistive technology
 - post-school follow-up and alternative delivery models for specialized instruction

Organizational Innovation & Leadership

- Led teams in creating and implementing successful COVID-related distance learning models for Special Education, including supports and strategies for students, teachers, therapists, support staff, transportation, nursing, counseling staff and parents.
- Managed all district health protocols and services, including safe conditions, quarantine procedures, testing protocols and vaccination clinics.