

News Release

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Boulder Valley Schools superintendent Bruce Messinger named 2016 Colorado Superintendent of the Year

Englewood, October 28, 2015 – Dr. Bruce Messinger, superintendent of the Boulder Valley School District, was selected as the Colorado Superintendent of the Year for 2016. The selection was made by a committee of previous award winners and educational leaders. Messinger will represent Colorado in the 2016 American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Superintendent of the Year program.

“We are proud to recognize Bruce Messinger for his work as superintendent and as an exceptional leader for Colorado students and educators,” CASE Executive Director Bruce Caughey said. “CASE has been so fortunate to have his expertise and leadership as its Legislative Committee Co-Chair since 2011 and his influence extends across the state. Furthermore, Bruce’s passion and dedication to all students is undeniable.”

“Receiving this recognition by my peers is a true honor,” Messinger said upon receiving the news. “I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a leader in Colorado public education as we strive to expand opportunity for all students and improve the quality of education throughout the state.”

Messinger became superintendent of Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) in July of 2011. BVSD is the eighth largest school district in Colorado, spanning 500-square miles with more than 31,000 students from preschool to 12th grade. Since joining the district, Messinger has focused on revitalizing the community and establishing partnerships that did not exist previously. During his tenure as superintendent, Messinger has enhanced the educational experience in the district, which is evidenced by academic excellence and increased graduation rates for all students. Messinger also worked toward the continued professionalization and empowerment for employees

and raised attention for legislative issues. The school district strategic plan “The Success Effect” establishes future direction of the Boulder Valley School District.

“Superintendents are educational leaders in all 178 school districts across the state and we have a professional commitment to provide equitable opportunities for all students so they are successful.” Messinger said of the role superintendents often play in being catalysts for positive change. He continued on, even quoting the Boulder Valley School District vision statement, “School superintendents are shaping the future of public education so graduates [can become] ‘successful, curious, lifelong learners who confidently confront the great challenges of their time.’”

Like the superintendents Messinger describes, his efforts have left a tangible impact on the Boulder Valley community. As his nominators Fran Ryan, CEO of IMPACT on Education, and Dr. Ron Cabrera, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services and Equity, write “[Bruce] truly embodies the high ideals expected of our educational leaders in our K-12 public school education in our country.” They add that “[Bruce] has taken the lead in educational legislation... to give voice on encouraging additional school funding and providing realistic voice about current assessment practices. His leadership has brought forward increased support for all public schools in Colorado.”

Messinger regularly visits all 56 schools of BVSD, during which time he observes classes, meets with staff and talks with students. Additionally, he participates in a variety of community groups utilizing the community consensus process to invite members of the community to offer input on district priorities and resource management.

“Maintaining involvement and support of the community is a high priority,” Messinger said, “and I invest significant time and effort to ensure engagement of our diverse communities.”

And as a direct result, groups of diverse constituents, including parents, students, employees, business representatives and community members are actively supporting students and building a strong future for BVSD. Through his efforts toward informing the community and igniting engagement, a \$576 million bond issue was approved in November 2014. These funds will be used for the construction of five new schools, make improvements and initiate innovative facility designs to the 56-already-existing campuses and buildings.

Messinger joined the Boulder Valley School District after serving for fourteen years as a superintendent of Helena Public Schools in Helena Montana. His past administrative experience includes Deputy Superintendent, Director of Pupil Services, Area Administrator of Schools and elementary principal in the Weld County School District 6 in Greeley, Colorado.

The 2016 AASA National Superintendent of the Year will be announced at the 2016 AASA National Conference on Education in Phoenix, Arizona, February 11-13, 2016. Candidates are evaluated on Leadership for Learning, Communication, Professionalism, and Community Involvement.

Since 1988, the National Superintendent of the Year program has recognized and honored superintendents for the contributions they make every day advocating for public education, our nation's children and our country's future. Messinger will represent Colorado well as a superintendent making a positive impact on public education and the lives of students and their families.

The Colorado Association of School Executives (www.co-case.org) is the preeminent professional association for public school administrators in Colorado. The organization's mission is to empower Colorado education leaders through advocacy, professional learning and networking to deliver on the promise of public education.

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CAES
Colorado Association of
Educational Specialists

CAESP
Colorado Association
of Elementary
School Principals

CALET
Colorado Association of
Leaders in Educational
Technology

CASPA
Colorado Association
of School Personnel
Administrators

CASSA
Colorado Association
of Superintendents and
Senior Administrators

CASSP
Colorado Association
of Secondary
School Principals

DBO
Department of
Business Officials