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## NEWS RELEASE

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# Hoppstock honored with prestigious Beekman Award

*Beekman award considered top special education recognition in Michigan*

**BERRIEN SPRINGS** – During last week’s Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education’s (MAASE) annual Summer Institute, Eric Hoppstock, Superintendent of Berrien Regional Education Service Agency (Berrien RESA), was awarded the prestigious Marvin Beekman Award for 2020. The award recognizes individuals who have distinguished themselves in the administration and leadership of special education programs at the local, regional (ISD) or state level. The winner is selected by a representative committee, focusing on the candidate’s education, experience, current administrative responsibilities, honors and special recognition, organizational memberships and involvement, community activities, and any distinguishing qualities which would make a candidate worthy of the award.

The award was presented by MAASE President Renee Thelen at Berrien RESA as a surprise event and then later showcased via video during the virtual MAASE Summer Institute.

“Eric is caring, diplomatic, and always does what’s best for students,” said Thelen during the award presentation at Berrien RESA. “He is a visionary that is always looking to improve programs and services...he is a lifelong learner that looks to continually improve his craft. Eric is described by his colleagues as diligent and carries out his responsibilities with effectiveness and grace.”

Thelen went on to share that Eric has helped mold the delivery of special education in Berrien County and has also influenced general education practices. This influence has led to effective systems that benefit students, teachers, and families. Eric also has a vast knowledge and expertise regarding instruction and supporting students with disabilities within the general education environment. He helped to bring the county’s Positive Behavior Intervention Support system into the forefront and was instrumental in implementation of a behavior scale to support teachers in identifying and quantifying student behaviors.

In 2014, MAASE also recognized Hoppstock with the Murray O. Batten Humanitarian Award, an honor given annually to a practicing ISD/Education Service Agency special education administrator who emulates the qualities of honesty, integrity, trust, and compassion.

Beginning his career at Berrien RESA in 1987, Mr. Hoppstock was a school psychologist, went on to become the supervisor of the district’s Special Education Department and then became the district’s Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer. Eric was named the district’s Superintendent in June of 2020.

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