

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 7, 2020

Charles Winterstein is LEA's 2020 *Christus Magister*

Charles (Chuck) Winterstein was selected by LEA's Board of Directors to receive LEA's top honor, the *Christus Magister* Award. Since 1965, this most prestigious Lutheran Education Association award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education.

Chuck is assistant to the superintendent of schools in the LCMS Michigan District. He previously served in positions including teacher and coach, assistant principal and principal, university instructor, director of development and marketing, education executive for the Mid-South District, and Concordia Ann Arbor's vice president, executive vice president and acting president. Among previous honors and recognitions are U.S. Department of Education National Distinguished Principal and National Distinguished Lutheran Principal, in addition to state education honors in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Ohio.

Charles earned a B.A. in curriculum and instruction and an M.A. in educational administration from Concordia University Chicago and is a Certified Development Executive and a Lutheran Leaders Program Fellow.

When asked about his greatest joys in ministry, Chuck said, "I serve administrators and teachers, assisting them as they meet the needs of the students entrusted to their care. I find great joy in helping administrators become better facilitators of educators and the educational process. A successful school ministry makes my heart sing."

Chuck addresses many leadership challenges. He said, "My greatest challenge in Lutheran ministry is working to provide excellent educational leaders for our Lutheran school ministries. We have a diminishing number of candidates graduating from our Synodical schools and that trend does not appear to be changing. We do need to find alternate routes for our future school ministry leaders."

Mr. Winterstein's nominator said, "Chuck has been the definition of a servant! And what I admire most is his desire to be a champion for students in any way that he can. He loves our Lutheran schools and desires excellence so our students have the very best. I'm grateful for his leadership and know that so many others have been blessed by it as well."

In support of Chuck's nomination, a pastor colleague said, "I have known Chuck...to boast frequently only of one thing: he is a fourth-generation Lutheran educator. Two of his children have followed him in the calling to ministry. Clearly, they were inspired by and learned from a father who has made outstanding and significant contributions to Lutheran education at the local, regional, and national levels."

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Edward Grube
Director of Publications and Communications
Lutheran Education Association, River Forest, Ill
708.209.3453 Fax 708.209.3458