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## Kansas Principal Elected to National Association Board - 06/10/2008

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by Raven Padgett

ALEXANDRIA, Va., June 10, 2008—Deborah Ayers-Geist, principal of Oak Grove Elementary School, in the Turner School District in Kansas City, Kansas, was recently elected to the 15-person board of directors of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) in a nationwide election. Gail Connelly, NAESP's executive director, announced the results from the association's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

Ayers-Geist begins her three-year term as director of Zone 8 on July 1, representing elementary and middle school principals in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

"My career as a principal has provided me an opportunity to work in rural and urban settings," says Ayers-Geist. "Through these experiences I have found that we face different challenges, but we have a common goal of educating all children. As leaders of our schools, we must demonstrate what we believe. I am honored to serve as the Zone 8 director and to promote the beliefs of NAESP."

Ayers-Geist has been a member of NAESP since 1990 and has served as a state representative and delegate for the association. She has also been a member of the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals (KAESP) since 1990 and served in various leadership roles, including president and fall conference chair. She was a KAESP distinguished principal honoree in 1995 and 2003.

Ayers-Geist began her education career as a special education teacher in 1979 and became a principal in 1990. Before taking the helm of her current school, she was principal of Valley Heights Elementary School (2001-2006), Hoxie Grade School (1992-2001), and Crest Elementary School (1990-1992).

She received her B.S. from Emporia State University, her M.S. from Pittsburg State University, and her district-level certification from Fort Hay State University.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves nearly 30,000 elementary and middle school principals nationwide, in Canada, and overseas. NAESP leads in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment to all children.