



## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Oregon Principal Elected President-elect of National Principals Association**

Alexandria, VA—June 15, 2009—Barbara A. Chester, principal of Cherry Park Elementary School in Portland, Oregon, was recently elected president-elect of the 15-member board of directors of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Gail Connelly, NAESP's executive director, announced the nationwide election results from the Association's headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Chester will begin as president-elect on July 1, and will assume the office of president one year later.

"I am passionate in my commitment to serve children and to work to further strengthen our association to support principals in every corner of our country," Chester said. "Collectively, we stand poised on the edge of the most exciting and unique times in education. I am committed to using our voice on Capitol Hill to create powerful, common-sense changes to policies that lie ahead."

Chester has been a member of NAESP since 1985, serving on state, regional, and national committees, as well as state representative from 1997 to 2000 and Zone 9 chair in 2002-2003.

She is also active in the Oregon Elementary School Principals Association, serving as president in 2001-2002, regional president in 1996, and regional representative from 1992 to 1995. She is a member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, and has held membership in the Colorado Association of School Executives (1985-1989) and the Association of Washington School Administrators (1982-1985).

Chester was named NW Regional National Distinguished Principal in 2005 and received the David Douglas School District Apple Award in 2005. She was honored with the Mayor's Award for Youth Service, City of Portland (2004-2005).

Chester has worked as a principal in the David Douglas School District since 1995, after serving as a principal in the North Clackamas School District from 1989 to 1995. From 1985 to 1989, she held the position of principal/staff development director for Englewood School District, and principal in the Federal Way School District (1982-1985). She began her career in education as an elementary teacher in Kent School District in 1974.

Chester holds a M.Ed. in education administration from the University of Washington and a B.A. in elementary education from the College of Idaho.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 28,000 elementary and middle school principals in the United States, 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.