



NEWS

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Thousands of Principals to Examine Educational Excellence, the Economy, and the Environment at National Convention

As central players in fostering educational quality, K-8 principals to focus on leadership and professional development strategies for strengthening the nation's schools in a forward-looking agenda during four-day annual meeting of the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Alexandria, VA—March 25, 2009—Thousands of elementary and middle school principals are expected to attend the National Association of Elementary School Principals' (NAESP) [88th Annual Convention & Exposition April 2-6 in New Orleans](#). This event, held in conjunction with the National AfterSchool Association, will focus on "Transforming Learning Communities." Highlights include the following sessions:

Dynamic speakers: In a General Session that is jointly hosted with the National AfterSchool Association, **former U.S. Secretary of State General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.)** will provide attendees with a fresh vision for how increased investment in children can help restore the nation's economic health; international educational consultant **Ian Jukes** will examine global education trends and show principals how to transcend technology changes; Discovery Channel's Animal Planet host and leading conservationist **Jeff Corwin** will discuss global environmental threats of the 21st century and explain how educators can help conserve the planet for future generations; and Mike Smith, senior counselor to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, will make a **special presentation on the economy recovery package**.

Volunteer Service Day: One hundred principals will partner with some of their fellow New Orleans principals to spruce up three schools—Bethune Elementary, Audubon Charter School, and Ben Franklin Elementary—as part of the ongoing effort to help New Orleans public schools return to full operations following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Presentation of NAESP's third annual Principal's Read Aloud Award to bestselling author and Louisiana resident Mike Artell for *Petite Rouge: A Cajun Red Riding Hood*.

Exclusive premiere of PBS documentary, *The Principal Story: A Film on Principals as Instructional Leaders*.

The annual convention, to be held in the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, also features dozens of **concurrent sessions** on issues of critical importance to strengthening elementary education, including the No Child Left Behind Act, school leadership, and early childhood education. Attendees of the NAESP convention also will have access to the **National AfterSchool Association convention**, which will focus on "Leading a Learning Day for All Children."

For more information about NAESP's annual convention, visit www.naesp.org.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 28,000 pre-K-8 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.