



For Immediate Release

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K-8 PRINCIPALS RECEIVE “DISTINGUISHED” AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN PROGRAM’S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

ALEXANDRIA, VA– October 1, 2008–Sixty-two outstanding elementary and middle school principals from schools across the nation and abroad have been named as 2008 National Distinguished Principals (NDP) by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the U.S. Department of Education. They will be honored Oct. 17 at an awards banquet at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., as part of a two-day program, which for the past 19 years has been generously funded by AIG Retirement. The NDP program celebrates its 25th anniversary this year.

Gail Connelly, executive director of NAESP, commended the 62 principals for being role models for school leadership throughout the nation and the world. “For the past 25 years, our National Distinguished Principals program has provided us with a unique opportunity to recognize exceptional principals and their commitment to creating successful learning communities,” Connelly said. “We are all indebted to these visionary leaders who represent thousands of principals who every day are preparing our children for bright futures, which in turn impacts every aspect of our society.”

NAESP and the U.S. Department of Education started the program in 1984 to recognize public and private school principals who make superior contributions to their schools and communities. The distinguished principals are selected by NAESP state affiliates, including the District of Columbia, and by committees representing private and overseas schools.

“Successful principals inspire and motivate teachers and staff,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. “They create an environment of high expectations, using data to drive improvement for every student. Now that No Child Left Behind has set the goal of all students performing on grade level by 2014, there is even greater recognition of principals’ critical role in helping students succeed.”

NOTE: A list of the 2008 NDPs can be accessed at www.naesp.org/NDP. For biographical information about the principals and information about the program, or to request an interview while the principals are in Washington, D.C., call Kaylen Tucker at NAESP, 703-684-3345 or 800-386-2377. On Oct. 16-17, call the NAESP Press Room at the Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., at 202-393-1000.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 30,000 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.

For more than half a century, AIG Retirement has served as a leading plan provider for K-12 schools and school districts, as well as for higher education and health care institutions. AIG Retirement is the umbrella title and marketing name for the group of companies comprising AIG Retirement Advisors, Inc.; AIG Retirement Services Company; and The Variable Annuity Life Insurance Company.