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## NEWS

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) to Address Principals at Annual Convention in New Orleans**

Alexandria, VA—December 22, 2008—The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has announced that former Secretary of State General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.) will address the nation's K-8 principals at its 88th Annual Convention and Exposition in New Orleans on Sat. April 4, 8:30-10:30 a.m. NAESP's convention, which will take place April 2-6, 2009, is the premier networking and professional development event for elementary and middle-level principals.

"Powell's admirable service to our country and commitment to improving the lives of the nation's children serves as inspiration for principals, whose leadership of our nation's schools is critical to their success," said NAESP Executive Director Gail Connelly.

Powell, who founded America's Promise Alliance, which partners with nearly 250 organizations to provide wraparound support so that children can stay in school and succeed, will provide principals with a fresh vision for how increased investment in children can restore economic health. "To move forward as a nation, we must ensure that all children have quality health care, an excellent education, and the necessary services to lift them out of poverty," said Powell.

NAESP is holding its convention in conjunction with the National AfterSchool Association and Powell will make his address as a Keynote Speaker during the jointly hosted General Session. Other General Session keynoters are top educational speaker Ian Jukes and Animal Planet host and leading conservationist Jeff Corwin.

NAESP is also conducting a volunteer service day in New Orleans on April 2 to assist the New Orleans Public School system as it continues to recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina.

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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.*