



NEWS

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NAESP and MetLife Foundation Announce Community Engagement Grant Recipients

Alexandria, VA—October 1, 2009—Thirty principals from 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam each received \$3,000 competitive grants to implement innovative parent and community engagement projects throughout the 2009-2010 school year. Entitled Sharing the Dream, this grant program—supported by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and MetLife Foundation—has provided 192 principals the opportunity to build shared responsibility for student learning since 2004. A selection committee determined the winning schools based on clearly defined and innovative goals, expressed community need, and effective data measurement techniques to monitor project success. To view the list of Sharing the Dream grant recipients, visit www.naesp.org/MetLife_Share_Dream.aspx.

“Sharing the Dream grants encourage the innovative development of learning communities that is the hallmark of effective principal leadership, as outlined in the second edition of NAESP’s landmark publication, *Leading Learning Communities: Standards for What Principals Should Know and Be Able To Do*,” said NAESP Foundation CEO Ernest J. Mannino. “We are excited to be able to directly impact the important work that principals do to enhance communication and build capacity within school communities.”

Sharing the Dream grants are based on the premise that effective principals actively engage the community to create shared responsibility for student and school success. Such principals play an instrumental role in building ownership for the work of the school, share leadership and decision-making, encourage parents to become meaningfully involved in the school and their children’s learning, and ensure that students and families are connected to the services they need to stay focused on learning.

“Effective education is a collaborative venture,” said A. Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “We congratulate these principals for their leadership and innovation in connecting schools, families, and communities to assure students succeed.”

The initiative originated after the 2003 *MetLife Survey of the American Teacher: An Examination of School Leadership* revealed a significant disconnect between the ways in which principals and other members of the school community view their schools and their relationships with one another. Principals perceived a markedly more positive school atmosphere than did students, teachers, and parents. NAESP and MetLife Foundation developed the program to give schools the resources to decrease this perception gap and work collaboratively toward improving achievement for all students.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves more than 25,000 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.

MetLife Foundation supports education, health, civic and cultural organizations. It seeks to increase opportunities for young people to succeed, develop the collaborative leadership of teachers and principals, and strengthen ties among home, school, and community. Its funding for education is informed by findings from the annual MetLife Survey of the American Teacher. For more information, visit www.metlife.org.