NAESP is pleased to feature the 2018 National Distinguished Principals (NDPs), individuals who exemplify the highest attributes of the elementary and middle-level principalship and who demonstrate significant career accomplishments; dedication to education; exemplary leadership; high standards for instruction and student achievement; and lasting contributions to their entire school communities.

This prestigious program, established in 1984, promotes and celebrates excellence in educational leadership for pre-K-8 education, and it highlights the fundamental importance of elementary and middle-level principals as primary catalysts for creating a lasting foundation for learning, driving school and student performance, and for shaping the long-term impact of school improvement.

Each class of NDPs includes principals who lead elementary and middle-level schools in both the public and private sectors and the U.S. Department of State American Overseas Schools and the individuals representing public schools are initially nominated by their peers and colleagues in their home state. Final selections are made by executives and volunteer leaders of NAESP’s state-affiliated associations. Special committees select principals from among those nominated by private education associations and from the schools affiliated with the U.S. Department of State American Overseas Schools and the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity.

Nomination and selection criteria, established by NAESP, require, among other factors, that the NDP candidate is a practicing principal of a school that (1) is clearly committed to excellence; (2) has programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students; and (3) has firm ties to parents and the school community. Candidates must show evidence of outstanding contributions to the community and the education profession. Visit www.naesp.org for additional details.

ABOUT NAESP

NAESP, founded in 1921, is a professional association serving elementary and middle school leaders in the United States, Canada, and internationally. It operates through a network of affiliated associations.
Representing Public Schools

Nathaniel W. Martin, Jr.  
Enterprise Early Education Center  
Enterprise City Schools  
Enterprise, Alabama

Michael A. Angaiak  
Anne Wien Elementary  
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District  
Fairbanks, Alaska

Frank H. Hendricsen  
Chandler Traditional Academy - Independence  
Chandler Unified School District  
Chandler, Arizona

Stephanie M. Worthey  
Greenbrier Springhill Elementary  
Greenbrier Public Schools  
Greenbrier, Arkansas

Jeffrey C. Wasem  
Creekside Middle School  
Bentonville School District  
Bentonville, Arkansas

Lucy A. Salazar  
Alvarado Elementary  
Long Beach Unified School District  
Signal Hill, California

Kristin Golden  
Riverdale Elementary  
Adams Twelve Five Star School District  
Thornton, Colorado

Troy C. Hopkins  
Ashford School  
Ashford School District  
Ashford, Connecticut

Maribeth Courtney  
Evan G. Shortlidge Academy  
Red Clay Consolidated School District  
Wilmington, Delaware

Seth Daub  
Catalina Elementary School  
Orange County Public Schools  
Orlando, Florida

Julia Mashburn  
Riverview Elementary School  
Dawson County School District  
Dawsonville, Georgia

Sandra S. Tinsley  
South Forsyth Middle School  
Forsyth County School System  
Cumming, Georgia
Linell K. Dilwith
Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School
Honolulu School District
Honolulu, Hawaii

Susie Luckey
Idaho Hill Elementary
West Bonner County School District #83
Oldtown, Idaho

Gloria Trejo
Pioneer Elementary School
West Chicago District 33
West Chicago, Illinois

Kathryn M. Raasch
Wayne Township Preschool
MSD Wayne Township
Indianapolis, Indiana

Gayle L. Allensworth
Inman Primary & Washington Intermediate
Red Oak Community School District
Red Oak, Iowa

Tad M. Hatfield
Andale Elementary
Renwick USD 267
Andale, Kansas

Leo M. Labrillazo
Mary G. Hogsett Elementary School
Danville Independent Schools
Danville, Kentucky

Cleo Perry, Jr.
Crestworth Elementary
East Baton Rouge Parish School Board
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dawn Moore
Leroy H. Smith School
RSU #22
Winterport, Maine

Tracy D. Hilliard
Centerville Elementary School
Frederick County Public Schools
Frederick, Maryland

Craig C. Martin
Michael J. Perkins School
Boston Public Schools
South Boston, Massachusetts

Craig McCalla
Cornerstone Elementary
Dexter Community Schools
Dexter, Michigan

Curtis Slater
Wyoming Elementary
Forest Lake School District
Wyoming, Minnesota

Todd E. Boucher
Popp's Ferry Elementary School
Biloxi Public Schools
Biloxi, Mississippi

Emily Cross
Indian Trails Elementary
Fort Osage R-I School District
Independence, Missouri

2018 National Distinguished Principals
Jon Konen  
Lincoln Elementary  
Great Falls Public Schools  
Great Falls, Montana

Mary R. Derby  
Eisenhower Elementary  
North Platte Public School  
North Platte, Nebraska

Darryl C. Wyatt  
Gwendolyn Woolley Elementary  
Clark County School District  
Las Vegas, Nevada

David M. Levesque  
Pleasant Street School  
Laconia School District  
Laconia, New Hampshire

Aaron G. Pope  
Belmont Middle School  
Shaker Regional School District  
Belmont, New Hampshire

Dumar Burgess  
Hawthorne Elementary  
Willingboro Public School District  
Willingboro, New Jersey

Linda Townsend-Johnson  
Sunset View Elementary School  
Albuquerque Public Schools  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Joanna Kletter  
South Oceanside Road School #4  
Oceanside School District  
Oceanside, New York

Charles Tadduni  
Rondout Valley Junior High School  
Rondout Valley Central School District  
Accord, New York

Michelle D. White  
D.F. Walker Elementary School  
Edenton-Chowan Schools  
Edenton, North Carolina

Jason Gullickson  
Ely Elementary  
Rugby Public School District  
Rugby, North Dakota

T.J. Ebert  
Redwood Elementary  
Avon Lake City Schools  
Avon Lake, Ohio

Janalyn C. Taylor  
Nance Elementary School  
Clinton Public Schools  
Clinton, Oklahoma

Perla V. Rodriguez  
Echo Shaw Elementary School  
Forest Grove School District  
Cornelius, Oregon

Adam Garth Schmucker  
Trumbauersville Elementary School  
Quakertown Community School District  
Quakertown, Pennsylvania

2018 National Distinguished Principals
Jennifer J. Poore  
Charlestown School  
Charlestown, Rhode Island

Timothy J. Carnahan  
Waccamaw Intermediate School  
Pawleys Island, South Carolina

Christopher E. Noid  
Howard Elementary  
Howard School District 48-3  
Howard, South Dakota

Ann-Marie Gleason  
Harpeth Valley Elementary  
Metro Nashville Public Schools  
Nashville, Tennessee

Jennifer Parker  
Purple Heart Elementary School  
Socorro Independent School District  
El Paso, Texas

Chad R. Argyle  
Santaquin Elementary  
Santaquin, Utah

Joyce Hakey  
Franklin Elementary School  
Franklin School District  
Franklin, Vermont

Andrew M. Jacks  
Ashland Elementary School  
Prince William County Schools  
Manassas, Virginia

Gina L. Naccarato-Keele  
Linwood Elementary  
Spokane Public Schools  
Spokane, Washington

Cathi L. Bradley  
Kanawha City Elementary  
Kanawha County School District  
Charleston, West Virginia

Renee E. Warner  
Buckhannon-Upshur Middle School  
Upshur County School District  
Buckhannon, West Virginia

Scott Walter  
Riverside Elementary School  
Menomonee Falls School District  
Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

Roy Michael Wood  
Glenn Livingston Elementary  
Park County School District #6  
Cody, Wyoming
Representing Private Schools

Michael R. Thomaian  
St. Anthony Catholic School  
Archdiocese of Washington  
Washington, DC

Anthony Christopher Comella  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School  
Chicago, Illinois

Helen M. McLean  
Saint Andrew School  
Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania

Dawn D. Oldenettel  
St. John’s Lutheran School  
West Bend, Wisconsin

Representing U.S. Department of State American Overseas Schools

John M. Smithies  
The American School of Bombay  
Mumbai, India

Timothy A. Messick  
American School of the Hague  
Wassenaar, Netherlands

Penelope A. Miller-Smith  
Kaiserslautern Elementary School  
DoDEA Europe East  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Representing U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity