NAESP is pleased to feature the 2017 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. 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

Julie G. Pierce
Fairhope Elementary School
Baldwin County Public Schools
Fairhope, Alabama

Lisa L. Vrviolo
Cottonwood Creek School
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
Wasilla, Alaska

Christine Bonow
Redfield Elementary School
Scottsdale Unified School District
Scottsdale, Arizona

Annette Freeman
Gene George Elementary
Springdale School District
Springdale, Arkansas

Kelli Dawn McGaha-Martin
Greenbrier Middle School
Greenbrier School District
Greenbrier, Arkansas

Scott M. Borba
Alice N. Stroud Elementary School
Empire Union School District
Modesto, California

Tobey Cho Bassoff
Ryan Elementary STEAM School
Boulder Valley School District
Lafayette, Colorado

Carla A. Armistead
Chapel Street School
Stratford Public Schools
Stratford, Connecticut

Becky Neubert
Central Elementary
Seaford School District
Seaford, Delaware

Margaret M. Gunderson
Millennium Middle School
Seminole County Public Schools
Sanford, Florida

Cynthia J. Hammond
Westside Elementary
Houston County Schools
Perry, Georgia

Lori Joiner
Risley Middle School
Glynn County Schools
Brunswick, Georgia
Nelson R. Shigeta
Makaha Elementary School
Leeward District
Waianae, Hawaii

Tina Jo Fehringer
Hillcrest Elementary School
American Falls School District
American Falls, Idaho

Michelle R. Willis
Gillespie Tech Elementary School
Chicago Public Schools
Chicago, Illinois

Davin E. Harpe
Sugar Grove Elementary School
Center Grove Community School Corporation
Greenwood, Indiana

James F. Murray
Tilford Elementary School
Vinton-Shellsburg Community School District
Vinton, Iowa

Dana J. Sprinkle
Ell-Saline Elementary
USD 307
Salina, Kansas

Dana L. Blankenship
Peaks Mill Elementary
Franklin County Schools
Frankfort, Kentucky

Jennifer Ann McGee
Atwood Primary School
RSU 18
Oakland, Maine

Michael L. Browne
Pocomoke Elementary School
Worcester County Public Schools
Pocomoke, Maryland

Christopher J. Getchell
Parkview Elementary School
Easton Public Schools
Easton, Massachusetts

Amy J. Taranko
Spiter Elementary
Hart Public Schools
Hart, Michigan

Jessica Cabeen
Woodson Kindergarten Center
Austin Public Schools
Austin, Minnesota

Melissa Wise Philley
Ann Smith Elementary
Madison County School District
Ridgeland, Mississippi

Janell R. Bagwell
Eugene Field Elementary
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield, Missouri

Susan Sweeney
Broadwater Elementary School
Helena School District
Helena, Montana
2017 National Distinguished Principals

**Denise L. Barth**
Catawba Trail Elementary School
Richland School District Two
Elgin, South Carolina

**Kim M. Johnson**
Austin Elementary
Vermillion School District
Vermillion, South Dakota

**Amy C. Downey**
Charlotte Park Elementary School
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Nashville, Tennessee

**Kevin Armstrong**
DuPont Hadley Middle Prep
Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Old Hickory, Tennessee

**Lois Annette Dailey**
Crenshaw Elementary and Middle School
Galveston ISD
Crystal Beach, Texas

**Todd A. Theobald**
Majestic Elementary
Jordan School District
West Jordan, Utah

**William S. Hammond**
Marion Cross School
Norwich School District
Norwich, Vermont

**Hamish M. Brewer**
Occoquan Elementary
Prince William County Public Schools
Woodbridge, Virginia

**Adina T. Brito**
Evergreen Elementary
Shelton School District
Shelton, Washington

**Jennifer A. Cox**
Skyview Elementary
Monongalia County Schools
Morgantown, West Virginia

**Daniel H. Westfahl**
Brookfield Elementary School
Elmbrook School District
Brookfield, Wisconsin

**Breez Longwell Daniels**
Thermopolis Middle School
Hot Springs County School District #1
Thermopolis, Wyoming
Representing Private Schools

Gayle R. Renken
St. Timothy’s Christian Academy
Evangelical Lutheran Education Association
San Jose, California

Kenneth J. Willers
School of the Madeleine
Diocese of Oakland
Berkeley, California

Phyllis Cavallone-Jurek
St. Therese Chinese Catholic School
Chicago Archdiocese
Chicago, Illinois

Patrick M. O’Sullivan
Christ the King Catholic School
Diocese of Dallas
Dallas, Texas

Michael J. Yurk
St. Paul Lutheran School
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Grafton, Wisconsin

Representing U.S.
Department of State
American Overseas Schools

Andrea L. Rosinger
Frankfurt International School
U.S. Department of State - Office of Overseas Schools
Wiesbaden-Naurod, Germany

Elsa H. Donohue
Jakarta Intercultural School
U.S. Department of State - Office of Overseas Schools
Cilandak, Jakarta, Indonesia

Representing U.S.
Department of Defense Education Activity

Michelle A. Moore-Robinson
Kinser Elementary School
Department of Defense Education Activity
Okinawa, Japan