Indiana Principal Elected President of National Association Board - 06/10/2008

by Raven Padgett

ALEXANDRIA, Va., June 10, 2008—Diane Cargile, principal of Rio Grande Elementary School in Terre Haute, Indiana, was recently elected president-elect of the 15-member board of directors for the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). Gail Connelly, NAESP’s executive director, announced the nationwide election results from the association’s headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. Cargile will begin as president-elect on July 1, and will assume the office of president one year later.

“I believe the principal is the beacon of hope for this millennium and NAESP is the voice for principals advocating for the rights of children,” says Cargile. “Principals will continue to lead as the vision for tomorrow evolves because we know that it takes all of us working together for children to be successful.”

A member of NAESP since 1987, Cargile served as a federal relations coordinator, on the delegate assembly, and on the Vision 2021 advisory committee. She has also held leadership positions as a member of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP), serving as a member of that organization’s board of directors and as a legislative liaison.

Cargile has been the president and has served on the executive committee of the Indiana State University Alumni Board; served as president and vice president for the Indianapolis Public School Principals Association; and was president of both the Alpha Eta Omega Chapter and of the Alpha Mu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Cargile began her education career as a teacher, elementary guidance counselor, and human resources director, positions that she held until 1985 when she accepted her first principalship with Indianapolis Public Schools, serving at Edison Middle School, Arlington Woods Middle School, and Raymond F. Brandes Elementary School until 1996. She was also principal of Southgate Elementary (1996-2000) and Davis Park Elementary (2000-2001) before she became principal of Rio Grande Elementary, a position she has held since 2001. Rio Grande Elementary was a NCLB Blue Ribbon School in 2004 and an Indiana 4 Star School in 2001, 2002, and 2004. In 2005 Cargile was voted IASP District 8 Principal of the Year.

Cargile earned a B.S., M.S., and Ed.D. from Indiana State University.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals 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.