Alabama Principal Appointed to National Education Association Board

Alexandria, VA—June 11, 2009—Cynthia Toles-Woods, principal of Donehoo Elementary School in Gadsden, Alabama, was recently appointed the minority representative to the board of directors of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Foundation. Gail Connelly, NAESP’s executive director, announced the results from the Association’s headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

Toles-Woods will begin her three-year term on July 1.

“The Minority Foundation Director’s position encompasses supporting and focusing on the needs of principals serving minority populations,” Toles-Woods said. “I intend to be a voice for change that will provide opportunities for principals to prepare themselves to function effectively and productively in a diverse environment. Our challenge is to promote cultural diversity on numerous levels of the educational spectrum.”

Toles-Woods has been active in NAESP’s Zone 4 as representative, secretary, treasurer, and president. She also served on the board of directors for the Alabama Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools and has participated in national meetings of NAESP since 2002.

Toles-Woods began her education career in 1975 as a Title 1 teacher at Ohatchee Elementary School, moving in 1985 to Eura Brown Elementary School, where she taught third grade for eight years. In 1993, she served a year as Title 1 schoolwide coordinator for Gadsden City Schools, followed by a year as Even Start Coordinator for Gadsden City Schools. She has served as principal of Donehoo Elementary School since 1996. Toles-Woods was named Principal of the Year in 2005 and received the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Community Leadership Award in 2007.

She earned her B.S. from Alabama A&M University, M.A. from the University of Alabama, and a doctorate in education from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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Established in 1921, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) serves 28,000 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.