Quality Principals = Quality Schools

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Thanksgiving and Christmas are gone and now we are looking at the relatively unbroken stretch of time before spring break that many principals believe is the most productive time of the year for their students and teachers. This is also a great time for principals to begin focusing on next year’s budget and planning for future needs, both for their schools and themselves.

As you plan ahead, be sure to include NAESP in your decision-making process. Take advantage of the support, networking, and services that you receive as part of your NAESP membership.

The NAESP Principals Help Line is operational and is quickly becoming a favorite benefit of our members. Volunteer principals regularly check the Help Line and respond to questions posed by both new and experienced principals. This new membership service is available to all members at any time, and each inquiry can receive up to five responses that you can then evaluate and use. Mike Hertting, an elementary principal from Madison, Wisconsin, and one of our initial volunteers, may have said it best: “It was a great experience and I would be willing to help out again if needed. It renewed my interest in providing support to principals.”

If you have been a principal for five or more years, you are invited to serve as a Principals Help Line volunteer. It’s a two-week commitment to monitor the site and respond to your colleagues’ questions. You will find it an enjoyable and renewing experience that takes only minutes a day.

Contact NAESP at Helpline@naesp.org to sign up.

Do you know teachers or students who are pursuing a degree in school administration or certification as an elementary or middle-level principal? You can help these aspiring principals by offering them complimentary access to NAESP’s award-winning Web site for six months. They will not only have access to a goldmine of educational resources and updates, but a great opportunity to network with experienced principals and to learn how they have improved their schools and student achievement.

Resources to Help You Close the Gaps

As principals face the difficult challenge of closing achievement gaps, they can turn to NAESP for the support and resources to help them succeed. Here are a few of the many helpful books available from the National Principals Resource Center.

Urban Principals Respond: Closing the Gap, Raising the Bar
by NAESP and Educational Research Service
Closing the Gap, Raising the Bar, part of the Urban Principals Respond series that focuses on the unique challenges of the urban principalship, examines the impact of high-stakes testing on the achievement gap.
Item # UCTG-PM
Members $9.95
Non-members $16.95

A Framework for Understanding Poverty
by Ruby Payne
Payne, who will be a Distinguished Lecturer at NAESP’s 2005 Convention in Baltimore, is a former principal who has become an authority on how social class and economic standing affect children’s behavior and achievement.
Item # AFUP-PM
Members $22.00
Non-members $29.00

Differentiating Instruction in the Regular Classroom: How to Reach and Teach All Learners, Grades 3–12
by Diane Heacox
Heacox presents a menu of strategies any teacher can use to differentiate instruction across a broad spectrum of learners, including special education populations. She describes how teachers can develop challenging and engaging tasks for all achievement levels.
Item # DIC-PM
Members $27.95
Non-members $34.95

To order these resources, call NAESP’s National Principals Resources Center (NPRC) at 800-386-2377, fax 800-396-2377, or send check, credit card information, or purchase order to: National Principals Resource Center, 1615 Duke Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-3483. Members receive an additional 10 percent discount by ordering online at http://web.naesp.org/nprc/.