

Dawn Hochsprung Tree of Life

A Permanent Memorial to Honor Principals



The National Association of Elementary School Principals Foundation



About The Memorial

The Dawn Hochsprung Tree of Life Memorial was dedicated on February 21, 2014 and is located at NAESP Headquarters in Alexandria, VA. The memorial was created to honor elementary and middle school principals who made an "extraordinary sacrifice" during their career as an educator. The memorial includes a plaque which reads:

Dawn Hochsprung Tree of Life

Dedicated to Dawn Hochsprung—principal of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, and member of NAESP who made the ultimate sacrifice on December 14, 2012, protecting her school family.

This memorial honors principals who made an extraordinary sacrifice teaching, educating, preparing, and protecting our most cherished resource.

We invite you to nominate principals who have made an extraordinary sacrifice. The names of successful nominees will be engraved on a leaf of the “Tree of Life”.

In addition to the “Tree”, a scrapbook will be created to allow for more information about the honoree. A photo, brief biography, and a description of the principal’s sacrifice will be included in the scrapbook. Please be certain to limit the written pieces to the length indicated in the application. Newspaper articles, obituaries (where appropriate), and other small pieces are welcomed as well.

The process for receiving and selecting nominees will be left to the states. NAESP Foundation requires that nominees meet the following criteria and are unanimously approved by the state Board of Directors.

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Foundation, founded 1982, is operated as the tax-exempt, charitable arm of the National Association of Elementary School Principals — a professional association serving more than 20,000 administrators and other educators in the United States and overseas since 1921.

The National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), founded in 1921, is a professional organization serving elementary and middle school principals and other education leaders throughout the United States, Canada, and overseas. As a national organization, NAESP operates through a network of affiliated associations in every state, the District of Columbia, Canada, and overseas. For more information, visit www.NAESP.org.

~ **Criteria** ~

- Honoree must be/have been a principal at the PreK-8 level
- Honoree must have made an “extraordinary sacrifice” on behalf of their students and/or school
- Award is not to be considered recognition for lifetime achievement

~**Definition of Extraordinary Sacrifice**~

- The exact definition of “extraordinary sacrifice” will be left to the state’s discretion, however, a few examples include:
 - Death or injury while at work or protecting students/staff
 - Making a heroic effort to save a student or staff member

~ **Process** ~

The process for nomination at the state level will be as follows:

- States call for nominations, distribute forms, and receive applications
- States review applications and the State Board of Directors select honoree
- All honorees must receive a unanimous vote of the State Board of Directors
- States certify the honoree meets the criteria and submits forms and donation (there is no limit to the number of honorees a state may recognize)
- NAESP reviews and processes applications

For more information or to request an application packet, please contact Nikki Sparks at nsparks@naesp.org or 703-518-6268.