

Moving Forward, Ready for the Challenge

I am proud to be a principal. Principals have a positive influence on children, school staffs, and communities surrounding the schools they lead. I am proud to be a member of NAESP. As a NAESP member for more than 20 years, I see the influence our professional organization has to affect the changing role of the principal, the influence for positively affecting education legislation, for providing professional development opportunities, and promoting the need to identify and mentor new leaders. I will be proud to serve as your NAESP President-Elect

While serving as the Zone 4 Director, I contributed to the development of Vision 2021, an important document which provides a roadmap for NAESP to influence decisions affecting the role of the principal and to guide the operation of NAESP. I believe we must examine the four broad areas of Vision 2021 by Talking, Thinking, Targeting and Telling about each goal: Leading, Learning, Community, and Organization Transformation. We must talk with our membership, think about the information we have learned, establish target goals with timelines for achievement, and then tell how we have attained each goal to meet the needs of our members. We must acknowledge that none of our members will care until we demonstrate care for them and the challenges facing our profession.

Many of the challenges we encounter result from legislation with limited input from principals. The NAESP President must influence our members to advocate positive changes by relying on wisdom gained serving as school leaders. As President I will draw upon wisdom gained from serving 25 years as a principal so our members will see such influence.

Principals must have opportunities for professional development. Leadership is never mastered and improves only with time, professional growth and experience. I believe NAESP must provide opportunities to learn from respected leaders and offer experiences for leadership development.

Consideration must also be given to the future of our profession by identifying aspiring leaders and mentoring them to become strong principals who will become active NAESP members. We know that the average principal is 50 years old and likely to be entering the final years of their chosen profession. As president-elect I will lead our members to identify aspiring leaders and assistant principals and convince them of the importance of effective leadership necessary for serving our children.

I would be honored to serve NAESP as President – Elect and seek your vote. We must continue moving forward, ready for the challenge to create a promising future for our profession and for the children and communities we serve.