



# Minnesota National Distinguished Principal Program



## 2017 Timeline

- September 2017** Applications available online from the NAESP and MESPA Web sites for potential NDP candidates: [www.mespa.net/ndp](http://www.mespa.net/ndp)
- January 2, 2017** Nomination form due in the MESPA office. Nomination form available on the MESPA Web site. Applicants must be nominated by someone else; they cannot self-nominate. Nominated individuals may then submit an NDP application.
- January 23, 2017** Completed Applications due in the MESPA office, with the requisite reference letters, two professional photos, and short introductory video (3-5 minutes, allowing nominees to give a sense of their principalship and their school). Incomplete or late application or missing documents will disqualify the applicant.
- January 31, 2017** Selection Committee meets and selects three finalists. (The committee is comprised of MESPA's 12 Division Presidents and the most recent MESPA NDP; NAESP State Representative serves as chair). Interview questions are reviewed and developed. The meeting is conducted prior to the annual MESPA Institute. Chair informs nominees of outcomes via telephone. **NOTE:** The introductory video is not used in ranking applicants. The video replaces a school site visit, allowing the selection committee to get a sense of the principal in their school.
- February 1, 2017** Announcement of final candidates at Board of Directors' meeting.
- February 6, 2017** Finalists and other nominees are notified.
- March 6, 2017** Half of interview questions sent to finalists and interviewers.
- May 5, 2017** Selection Committee conducts individual interviews with finalists and selects the 2014 MESPA National Distinguished Principal.
- May 5, 2017** NAESP representative notifies candidates of final selection.  
NAESP representative notifies MESPA executive director, president, and NAESP of the MESPA representative to the National Distinguished Principal (NDP) Program.
- Fall 2017** NAESP ceremonies and awards held in Washington, D. C.

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### Weights used by Selection Committee In determining the MESPA NDP

- 30% Application
- 20% Recommendations
- 50% Interviews



## National Distinguished Principal Program



The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA) invites you to nominate elementary and middle level principals for selection as Minnesota's representative to the 2016 National Distinguished Principals Program.

The National Distinguished Principals (NDP) Program was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor exemplary elementary and middle level principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years.

The program is jointly sponsored by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and MESPA, in corporate sponsorship with VALIC. The program highlights the fundamental importance of the school principal in achieving educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students. The recognition afforded by the NDP designation instills pride in principals' accomplishments and reinforces their continued leadership in helping children develop a lifelong love of learning.

One principal is chosen annually from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Public school principals are nominated by peers in their home states, and the final selection (based on applications submitted by each nominee) are made by each state's NAESP affiliate. (MESPA selects the Minnesota NDP.) NDP awards ceremonies take place in Washington, D.C., each fall.

**Nomination forms, applications, selection criteria, and additional information on Minnesota's 2017 National Distinguished Principal selection process can be obtained on the MESPA Web site ([www.mespa.net/ndp](http://www.mespa.net/ndp)). Completed application, references, photos, and video must be submitted to the MESPA office by January 23, 2017.**

The Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association is a professional organization serving more than 950 elementary and middle level principals statewide, and is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and its 20,000 members nationwide.