



Supporting Alaska's Principals

Advocating for Alaska's Children



An affiliate of NAESP

January 2010 Newsletter

President's Message by Anne Salzer

Happy New Year and welcome back to school. I hope this newsletter finds you all refreshed from your winter break. One of the wonderful things about the holidays is taking the time to reflect on all that has been accomplished during the year. Routines are firmly in place and new initiatives we've been working on in our buildings are beginning to take root. It's a very satisfying time.

This year at AAESP, we have much to celebrate. During the summer, John Pile, our Executive Director, Tim Doran, our AAESP State Representative, Pete Swanson, President, and I, then President Elect joined our secondary colleagues and traveled to Washington DC to visit with our legislative delegation about education issues. Secretary Duncan spoke with us and reflected on the priorities of empowering principals. He assured us that as we begin to work on the reauthorization of ESEA, principals would be at the table. This is an exciting time nationally and it was an honor to be a part of the group representing your concerns.

In August, your AAESP leadership met with leadership from the secondary principals, superintendents and school business officers to review our progress on the Strategic Plan. Ultimately, this work will help us advocate for education more effectively with a unified voice. Part of the work to strengthen our collective voice was to reformat our legislative resolutions in the

form of concise position statements. This work was done and [2009 Position Statements](#) were accepted by the membership at the fall Principal's Conference. We are looking forward to updating the Position Statements this spring and tightening the format further in order to be able to present a single brochure of educational priorities. We will all be able to use this brochure as we discuss the important issues facing us in Alaska with our communities and legislative representatives. ►

2009 State Principals' Conference

The Principal's Conference in October was quite successful, thanks to the hard work of our organizing committee. John Pile, André Layral, Executive Director of AASSP, and Mary Francis, Executive Director of AACSA, Beth Crile and Kaleb supported the committee in a myriad of ways. The Planning committee was comprised of elementary principals Ruth Dene and Karen Pollard. Kelly Parsons, Kersten Johnson and Brendan Wilson from AASSP joined them. They spent many hours identifying speakers, working with the Sheraton, and coordinating details.

At the conference we had the pleasure of honoring our **National Distinguished Principal, Leslie Campbell** of Anne Hopkins Elementary School in Fairbanks and our **Alaska Distinguished Principal, Roger LeBlanc**, principal of Fairview Elementary in

Anchorage. Gale O'Connell-Smith and Erica Kludt-Painter passed the baton and we elected **Christine Ermold of Kenai as Secretary** and **Cheryl Stickler of Haines as Vice President**. The Fall Conference provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about current issues affecting our state and enjoy the fellowship of colleagues around the state. You won't want to miss our Fall Conference next year. Your involvement will be time well spent. ►

2010 State Principals' Conference

Looking ahead to October 17-19, 2010 the State Principals' Conference in Anchorage will be an opportunity for principals to learn and share all that we do for the children of Alaska. It is time now to encourage superintendents to add this learning experience to your Professional Development budget. ►

Turnaround Leadership Featured at NAESP Convention



Principals know more about turning around schools than anyone. That is why NAESP will feature "Transformational Leadership across America: Turnaround Principals in Action" during **NAESP's annual convention in Houston**. On Saturday, April 10, eight talented principals who successfully turned around academically struggling schools will participate in a panel presentation and share the process they used to make significant changes in their schools.

Each of the eight principals will also lead a workshop during the convention to further share unique strategies for change

based on the principal's school location and demographics. These outstanding principals have used their knowledge, expertise, and training to make change in schools and to sustain that transformation to better serve all of their students and communities.

These principals have a proven record and have been recognized for their successes, including raising test scores and narrowing the achievement gap separating students. To learn more about this special event, including panelist bios, visit <http://www.naesp.org/2010>. ►

State Executives Directors' Update

e-mail from NAESP

In December 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the **Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010 (H.R. 2847)** by a vote of 212 to 210. The bill is primarily paid for by funds redirected by the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP). A portion of the bill is earmarked for public K-12 and higher education with two distinct purposes:

1. To prevent layoffs, enable hiring of school staff, and job training;
2. For modernizations, renovation and repair of school facilities.

The money will be sent directly to states and distributed through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) as established in the stimulus bill; however, unlike in SFSF, states are not allowed to retain a portion of the funds for administrative purposes. Additionally, the bill includes a clear prohibition on states shifting this money into their "rainy day" funds.

See [a brief, easy-to-follow excerpt](#) from the House-passed bill.

NAESP Supports Professional Development Bill

NAESP worked with the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) to craft policy with Representative Jared Polis (CO-2) to expand access to quality professional development for principals and teachers. In fact, NAESP was able to incorporate standards language from their flagship publication, *Leading, Learning Communities*, in the bill. See [Education Daily's story](#) about the bill. ►



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