



**MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

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**TO:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. and Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Theresa Ball, Executive Director, MAESP-Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals

**DATE:** October 11, 2019

**SUBJECT:** MAESP 2019 National Distinguished Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year 2019

**PURPOSE:** To provide State Board of Education recognition of the individuals selected by the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) to represent Maryland as the 2019 National Distinguished Principal and 2019 Assistant Principal of the Year at the elementary level.

The Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals is a joint member affiliate of the National Association of Elementary School Principals located in Alexandria, Virginia. MAESP is committed to advocacy, service, and support for its members. Members include principals, assistant principals, aspiring leaders, retired leaders and central office supervisors and administrators. MAESP is a professional organization that has been in existence since 1946.

**SUMMARY:**

The National Distinguished Principal award is presented each year as a collaborative effort between the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP). The NDP program was established in 1984 to recognize elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and climate for students, families, and staffs in their learning communities.



Edward Cosentino, principal of Clemens Crossing Elementary in Columbia, was selected as Maryland's 2019 National Distinguished Principal of the Year (NDP). Mr. Cosentino received his award during MAESP's Annual Leadership Conference in Cambridge in March 2019. Ed was surprised, humbled, and somewhat speechless which is not his norm!

Mr. Cosentino was nominated and selected through a statewide search process conducted by MAESP. The criteria for the National Distinguished Principal award are defined by NAESP and MAESP. It requires that the applicant be a practicing principal with at least five years' experience in the principalship. The principal must demonstrate evidence of outstanding contributions to the community and to the education profession. Ed Cosentino joined other state NDP recipients for a two-day recognition event and ceremony in Washington D.C. October 10 – 11, 2019. Events included a *Welcome Reception* at the Department of State, Leadership Sessions, a visit to the White House and a sharing of state mementos from each of the National Distinguished Principals and, a Black-tie Awards Dinner and Dance at the Capital Hilton Hotel

Mr. Cosentino is recognized by his colleagues as a leader who goes above and beyond not only for his students and families but also for his professional colleagues. He has advocated for principals at the local and state levels as well as on Capitol Hill. He is dedicated to providing children and families lifelong learning opportunities. Mr. Cosentino fosters a school culture that focuses on the whole child, family engagement, and lifelong learning for all. In 2018, Clemens Crossing was one of two schools honored as a National PTA School of Excellence. He has co-authored a book on social media and presented at the MAESP state conference as well as the NAESP national conference.



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Mrs. Connie Stahler, MAESP's 2019 Outstanding Assistant Principal, is now the principal at Laurel Woods Elementary in Howard County. Prior to being named principal at Laurel Woods, Mrs. Stahler served as its Assistant Principal. Prior to that she served as an assistant principal at three elementary schools including Guilford, Waverly and Forest Ridge Elementary Schools.

The criteria for the National Outstanding Assistant Principal award are defined by NAESP and MAESP. It requires that the applicant be an active assistant principal for at least two years of a school where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students; contributes significantly to both the school and school community; demonstrates exceptional leadership in a particular school program; is respected by students, colleagues, parents and staff; and, sets high expectations for school staff and students.

Mrs. Stahler was recognized for her 'commitment to closing gaps for students of color, students with learning differences, and students of poverty'. Mrs. Stahler was pivotal in providing professional learning for her staffs in two schools in Restorative Justice, Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS), and Social Emotional Learning. Her efforts led to documented improvement in students' academic performance, student behavior, and staff morale.

Connie Stahler also served as the Site Coordinator for the Bridges After School Program. She focused on building students' academic success as well as enrichment of skills. She engaged families and students to ensure student attendance as well as secured transportation for the students to reduce family hardship. Mrs. Stahler was able to document the success of the program through her students' documented successes in academic performance.



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**TO:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D. and Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Addie Kaufman, Executive Director, MASSP-Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals

**DATE:** October 11, 2019

**SUBJECT:** MASSP Middle and High School Principals-of-the-Year for 2020  
NASSP National Finalist for 2020 Principal-of-the-Year  
MASSP Assistant Principal of the Year for 2020

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**PURPOSE:** To provide State Board of Education recognition of the individuals selected by the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) to represent Maryland as the 2020 Principals-of-the-Year and the 2020 Assistant Principal-of-the-Year at the secondary level. Additionally, the National Association of Secondary School Principals named the MASSP Middle School Principal-of-the-Year as one of three national finalists.

The Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals is a joint member affiliate of the National Association of Secondary School Principals located in Reston, Virginia. MASSP is committed to advocacy, service, and support for its members. Members include principals, assistant principals, aspiring leaders, retired leaders and central office supervisors and administrators.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each year, the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) in collaboration with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) selects a middle school and high school Principal-of-the-Year. Of the two principals, one is selected to represent Maryland in Washington D.C. at the national awards ceremony. Additionally, MASSP selects an Assistant Principal-of-the-Year.



**Dr. Joey Jones**

In addition to being named MASSP's Middle School Principal-of-the-Year, Dr. Joey Jones, Principal at Robert Frost Middle School in Montgomery County, has been selected as a finalist for the NASSP Principal-of-the-Year award competition. Dr. Jones, an accomplished educator and author, has been a school administrator for twenty-four years; seventeen of those years have been as principal of Robert Frost. A student-centered and collaborative leader, Dr. Jones believes that success is everyone's responsibility. He will take risks for the common good, and those risks pay off with improved data and a



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culture of community. Dr. Jones developed the program E-TAG: Eliminating the Achievement Gap and held an evening panel discussion on race and equity. He also facilitated and held a federal government employee shutdown dinner for families in his community. Dr. Jones is a caring and truly compassionate leader with high expectations for all. An eighth grade student wrote, *He motivates and challenges us to get involved and take full advantage of everything our school has to offer. Similarly, he challenges our teachers to provide us with the opportunity to achieve more.* A forty-eight year veteran teacher wrote, *Dr. Jones is a life-time learner. When asked why he devotes so much time to self-improvement, he responded, If we are not getting better, we are getting behind.* Joey Jones sets an example for all and shares, "Everything we do sends a message. Our message is excellence." Indeed, Dr. Joey Jones embodies excellence in character and leadership. Congratulations to Dr. Joey Jones.



The MASSP High School Principal-of-the-Year is Mr. Nick Novak, Principal of Howard High School in Howard County. A school administrator for thirteen years, Mr. Novak has been at Howard High School for four years. Nick Novak puts relationships at the forefront of everything he does; he is visible and engaging. A senior at Howard High School wrote about the ways in which Mr. Novak promotes school spirit and truly cares about his students. The student wrote about *Lion Time*, a time during which students can get extra help and study. Mr. Novak recognizes the importance of instructional leadership as a primary role. A Howard High School teacher wrote, *Mr. Novak fights tirelessly to find ways for staff to be leaders...(he) has also devoted a lot of time through his Aspiring Leaders group to ensure that the next generation of leaders is ready to enact their own change.* Changing school culture by using programs such as student voice circles, restorative practices and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Mr. Novak also facilitates wellness and safety. A school system administrator wrote, *All professional learning at Howard High School centers on three focus areas: student voice, equity, and technology integration.* Having won the Maryland Outstanding Leader Using Technology award from the Maryland Society for Education Technology (MSET), Mr. Novak can now add Maryland High School Principal-of-the-Year to his accomplishments. Congratulations to Mr. Nick Novak.



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The MASSP 2020 Assistant Principal-of-the-Year is Mrs. Catherine Sutton. Serving as an assistant principal for seven years, Mrs. Sutton has been at Calvert High School for four years. Dr. Steven Lucas, the principal at Calvert High School writes, *Mrs. Sutton is the primary advocate for students at Calvert High School. Her impact has been immense.* As the leader of Calvert’s PBIS Student Leader Club, which has over 120 students and the school’s Equity Leader, Mrs. Sutton has a major impact on school culture. She established a monthly student-led advisory period using lessons from the Believe in U curriculum and facilitated a student run CommUNITY Day. A student wrote, *An innovative learning opportunity I had was with PBIS when we had a field trip where we learned about the importance of leadership...This opportunity, led by Mrs. Sutton, really opened my eyes on how important it is to have... effective leaders when trying to solve problems...* Mrs. Sutton’s facilitation of restorative practices and training of peer mediators help students solve those problems. Academically, Mrs. Sutton is known for her work with “detracking”. Using the books [Detracking for Excellence and Equity](#) and [Teach Like A Champion 2.0](#), Ms. Sutton has focused on the inequitable enrollment of minority students in rigorous courses. Knowing that a change must begin with teachers, Mrs. Sutton started CAV U where teachers can receive professional development credit for learning that meets their needs. Mrs. Sutton models that learning; she has her National Board Certification and is currently enrolled in an Educational Leadership doctoral program at the University of Maryland. Mrs. Sutton refers to her students as “Changemakers.” Mrs. Sutton is a “Changemaker” who is leaving her imprint and improving the world one student at a time.