

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools

DATE: October 22, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Principals of the Year Recognition



Purpose

The State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools will recognize the 2024 Maryland Principals and Assistant Principals of the Year.

Background

The Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) and the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP) in collaboration with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) selects principals and assistant principals of the year to represent Maryland.

Executive Summary

The National Distinguished Principals recognized by MAESP are as follows:

Dr. Raegon Clutz, Jr. (Washington County Public Schools – Pangborn Elementary School) is the elementary-level 2024 National Distinguished Principal. Dr. Clutz has been a successful leader in Washington County Public Schools as a principal and assistant principal. He has led one of the largest and most diverse Title I schools as a hands-on servant leader. Dr. Clutz has engaged collaboratively with teachers, administrators, and staff to plan and deliver effective and rigorous instruction. His nominators noted that he goes above and beyond to support the community. He has served on the board of directors for the local health authority, as well as on the board for the local little league, and for Leadership Washington County. Dr. Clutz is considered by his peers to be a solutions-focused leader who always seeks win-win outcomes.

Melissa Shindel (Howard County Public Schools – Glenwood Middle School) is the middle-level 2024 National Distinguished Principal. Her nominators shared that Ms. Shindel is an extraordinary leader whose dedication, vision, and commitment to excellence have had a profound effect on the multiple schools and communities she has served. They also noted that Ms. Shindel engages and creates partnerships with all stakeholders. The personal and professional well-being of her staff comes first as she advocates for a balanced approach to work and life. The PTA president at Glenwood expressed her thanks for the positive atmosphere Ms. Shindel has created. She also praised her for her visibility within the school and her innate ability to connect with students.

The Principals of the Year recognized by MASSP are as follows:

Dr. Yetunde Reeves (Baltimore City Public Schools – Paul Laurence Dunbar High School) is the 2024 MASSP Principal of the Year. Dr. Reeves has been a successful leader in Baltimore City Public Schools as a principal for the past five years and has held numerous leadership roles in California and Washington, DC. In leading a large comprehensive urban high school, Dr. Reeves is committed to social justice education, and her passion is working with students of color and supporting first-generation college students. Her nominators noted that she is active and highly visible in supporting student and staff success. Dr. Reeves leads a team of educators, in collaboration with partners, who believe that their students will change the narrative about students of color. She is fully committed to transforming the educational experience of her students and ultimately improving the community.

Sheri Murphy (Frederick County Public Schools – Frederick High School) is the 2024 MASSP Assistant Principal of the Year. She has been an assistant principal at Frederick High since 2018 and an administrator for 12 years. Her nominators shared that Ms. Murphy interacts positively, professionally, respectfully and with genuine care and concern for all stakeholders and is truly a student-centered leader. She seeks to integrate the tenets of advocacy, partnerships, innovative learning, real world connections and the engagement of young people in experiential learning to individualize the educational experience for all students. Ms. Murphy is an active member of the Frederick County Administrative and Supervisory Executive Board, a lead mentor for Frederick County Public Schools and is active in promoting the understanding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future for her colleagues across Frederick County and the state. She is a passionate instructional leader who always puts the needs of her students first.

Action

No action is required.