



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**  
*Serving All Elementary and Middle Level Principals*

Dear Colleague:

The saying "hindsight is 20/20" helps us understand that while we can't change the past, we can use insights from past lessons to prepare for the future. No one can truly anticipate what the future holds for our nation's educational system, but as educators we know that we can use our foresight to prepare children to be academically and globally competitive in the 21st century and beyond.

It is important for us to build upon the legacy that has been provided to us and to optimize the opportunities before us, to build upon the goals and work that has been done to bring our association to its present level, to move forward into the future with a plan to grow, and to build upon a foundation that is solid and strong.

As your professional association, NAESP is using its foresight to prepare for these uncharted waters with a new initiative that also is creating a global community of principals. This initiative, Vision 2021, will examine the trends that are driving leadership and learning, and the impact these trends will have on the principalship in the future. During this next year, there will be multiple opportunities for us to influence the future of NAESP.

NAESP's Vision 2021 initiative also will provide services to keep members on the cutting edge of technology, such as:

- **The E-Knowledge Portal** for Principals, a research tool for school administrators with the capability for members to join "hot topic" discussion forums, create listservs, and participate in communities of practice;
- **The Principals' Office**, a blog that allows members to connect with colleagues and other K-12 educators to discuss major issues that affect the principalship; and
- **iShops**, an online store offering custom designs for schools and products to brandish the school spirit and learning community.

In addition, NAESP recently signed an agreement with the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education to provide a variety of services to bring about a major reform and restructuring of that nation's public school system. NAESP also will work with the Ministry of Education to establish a United Arab Emirates Principals Association. This agreement represents a unique opportunity and challenge to make a significant difference in the education of young people in a critically important part of the globe and to promote a new model of school leadership that will extend the reach of NAESP around the world. It also will produce a substantial revenue stream to sustain and expand our ability to provide services and benefits to principals here in the United States and across the world.

Foresight sparks creativity and innovative thinking about how we should plan for the future. This is an exciting time to be an educator and an even more exciting time to be a member of NAESP. Thomas Friedman writes in his book, *The World Is Flat*, that "You can flourish in this flat world, but it does take the right imagination and the right motivation." We all can be confident that Vision 2021 and other initiatives will provide increased opportunities for NAESP members to use their imagination and motivation to help students and teachers thrive in the future.

Sincerely,



Alan Michelson  
President  
National Association of Elementary School Principals