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*Serving All Middle Level and High School Administrators*

## MoASSP Update April 6, 2018

Video Version: <https://youtu.be/P7s1nBWGpPU>

### MoASSP Principals,

**Where do you get your motivation?** - This time of the year the principalship is almost overwhelming. Principals are being pulled and stretched almost to their limits by everyone wanting or **demanding** something from them. Everything is high profile for the next 6 to 8 weeks and nearly every moment a principal is dealing with a crisis for someone. Angry parents, tough teacher conversations, a variety of tests, concerts, academic programs, ball games, track meets, board meetings, schedules for next year, hiring new teachers, and that is the short list. With all of the events and responsibilities facing you each day, what clears your head, stimulates you, and puts a spring back in your step? Do you carve out a little time on the weekend? Can you find a few moments each day to escape? You must think about you and your health, or all of the things on your plate will be covered in an unhealthy dose of anxiety seasoning and will quickly cause indigestion or worse, high levels of stress. Closing your eyes and taking a few deep breaths sometimes will help relax you and bring a few moments of respite. Trusting someone you know to walk you through a tough conversation before you have to have it will help. Maybe a little writing therapy might help. Write it down, rewrite it, and lay it aside. What about watching that favorite movie that stirs positive emotions and ends in triumph? A good book could take you away from reality for a while. A nice run or something physical that leaves you with a sense of invincibility might provide some peacefulness. Whatever it is that keeps you fresh, don't put it off! You are too important to your building culture and those you serve to be abrupt, inattentive, or irrational.

**The Spring Conference was Extraordinary** – ([Go to the MoASSP Website](#) for Wagner Portraits Awards Luncheon photos and candid shots of the conference) Not everyone gets a chance to get away, but those who did were treated to three days of great keynotes, exceptional breakout sessions, and the celebration of the MoASSP Principals of the Year. Thanks to Doug Mirts for putting together an outstanding conference and making sure all of the details were taken care of that made things run smoothly. Katie Greer had this to say about her conference experience, "If you are not an active member of the Principal Association, YOU ARE MISSING OUT! Every time I leave one of the Conferences I take things back to my building that others have shared. From the keynote speakers, break-out sessions, and collaboration with colleagues from around the state I find new ideas. Not only do I learn new things, but I have an opportunity to share the amazing work that is happening in our building and district." Katie is from Francis Howell and is on the MoASSP Board of Directors. Thank you, Katie for your service to the principals of Missouri. See the attachment for a copy of her blog she posted on Facebook last week.



**MoASSP Board of Directors Chooses New Executive Director** – Clark Mershon was named the MoASSP Executive Director and will begin his contract July 1, 2018. Clark

has many years of experience with MoASSP and has been in the education business for 35 years. He began his administrative experience as the assistant principal in Lebanon at the junior high school. In the years that followed he has been a principal at a junior high, a middle school principal, and an assistant superintendent for Educational Programs, School Leadership, and School Supervision. He finished his career opening Staley High School and led the school for 10 years before retiring in 2017. For the last year, Clark has worked with the International Center for Leadership in Education as a consultant. Welcome Clark Mershon, the fifth full-time MoASSP Executive Director!



**Last week it was the MoASSP Spring Conference at the lake and this week the Superintendents** are at the Lodge for their Spring Conference – MASA has a record number of registrations for MASA/MOSPRA Spring Conference. Last night they honored over 60 individuals for their service to education. There were a few standing ovations, but none greater than the standing ovation for Margie Vandeven. She received the State Wide Friend of Education Award. She is doing fine and was happy to be “out” at a major education event for the first time since December. She has not been forgotten and is still loved and appreciated for all she has done for education in Missouri. Also honored as the annual Pearce Award Selection was Alan Markley the Superintendent of the Raytown School District. He was selected from nominees honored from each of the eight MASA District.

**What is going on in other states?** Want to feel good about education in Missouri? Click on the link. It is interesting that several of the states struggling with issues do NOT have strong principal associations. They have strong teacher and superintendent professional associations but lack the benefits of a strong building leader organization. Thank you for being an active member of MoASSP; you do make a difference and it shows. The value of having a more global view of education allows for quality reflection and comparisons to the strengths and shortcomings in other states. Things can change tomorrow, but with your strong voice and understanding a little about politics in Missouri, we are in decent shape here in our great state. Take a quick peek at states like Arizona, Oklahoma, and a variety of other states across the country. The struggles some of the states are facing are a direct result of not helping legislators understand public education and the value of serving the needs of the students and communities they serve.

**Assistant Principals we need your Help** – The Missouri Leadership Development System (MLDS) would like to provide a focus for assistant principals that will meet the needs of individuals who are moving into that role or are just completing the first year in the position. This year the MLDS program has served over 700 principals and assistant principals in their first or second year of administration. This short survey will take about 10 minutes to complete. Thank you, from Jim Masters, Director – Educator Evaluation and Training with DESE. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AP2018Survey>

**Need a break and could use some time away from the April mayhem?** If you are close to Columbia, judges are needed for the Educators Rising Missouri State Conference and competitions on Wed., April 11 at Mizzou. These are high school students interested in a career in education. There were more entries than expected. A few more judges are needed in the afternoon from 12-2.

Judges are needed for the following competitions:

Exploring Administration Careers

Exploring Support Services Careers

Exploring Non-Core Teaching Careers

Lesson Plans- Humanities

Lesson Plans- STEM

Researching Learning Challenges- Dyslexia  
Contact [ann.jarrett@mnea.org](mailto:ann.jarrett@mnea.org) for more information.

**Digital Principal of the Year – Applications are due to NASSP no later than April 30.** [NASSP Digital Principal of the Year](#) If you and your school have incorporated technology into the daily routine of your school day, you should strongly consider making application for the Digital Principal of the Year. If you know a principal who has embedded use of technology in the school day, encourage him or her to apply.

**Celebrate** – You celebrate with your students, you celebrate with your teachers, and now it is time to celebrate with your MoASSP district principals. Attending the year-end MoASSP District awards meeting is a sacrifice I hope you are willing to make. It is one more thing on your calendar and it is easy to cross it off, but the value of supporting principals in your district is healthy and cathartic for you and those who were selected as recipients of the district awards. We all know no one cannot do this job alone and we need a strong support system when times are tough. You are finishing a good year and as a humble principal, you know you don't feel the necessity to be praised for your accomplishments because it is just your job. A crowd of 15,000 has not watched you work all year and there has been no applause for your successes. Not one of you won a national championship and there will be no confetti dropping from the ceiling in your building celebrating the accomplishments. Keep in mind the feelings and emotional connections that make your building culture so strong. As much as those in your building need to be recognized to keep your network strong you need support the connections by celebrating principal successes. **It really is the Principal of the Thing.**