



**VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**  
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*"Serving Elementary and Middle Level Principals"*

For Immediate Release  
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## **Hamish M. Brewer selected as Virginia's 2017 National Distinguished Principal**



**Hamish M. Brewer**



**Mr. Brewer with family and guests**

Woodbridge, VIRGINIA – April 25, 2017—Hamish Brewer, principal of Occoquan Elementary in Woodbridge, VA was selected as Virginia's **2017 National Distinguished Principal**. The 2017 celebration marks the 34th year that the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP) has presented this prestigious award.

Mr. Brewer received his award in a surprise presentation in front of his students, community and staff at his school on Tuesday, April 25, 2017. In attendance to honor Mr. Brewer were his wife, children other family members and friends. From Prince William County Schools, Dr. Steven Walts, Superintendent, Ms. Lillie Jesse, Vice Chair, Prince William County Public School Board, Mr. Craig H. Gfeller, Associate Superintendent for Eastern Elementary Schools and Mrs. Ann Henley, NAESP Associate Executive Director for Marketing Research & Services. Representing the VAESP Board of Directors were: Jim Baldwin, Executive Director and Andrew Buchheit, NAESP State Representative and Principal of T. Clay Woods Elementary in PWCS.

Mr. Brewer was nominated and selected by his fellow principals through a statewide search process conducted by VAESP. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Auckland University in New Zealand, his Master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and is currently enrolled in doctoral studies at Virginia Tech. He has served as a principal of Occoquan Elementary for five years.

“At the helm of every successful school is a successful principal,” said Gail Connelly, NAESP's executive director. “Our National Distinguished Principals program provides us with an opportunity to recognize the outstanding leadership of these principals and their commitment to creating successful learning communities. Because of them, students thrive academically, teachers grow professionally, and communities are strengthened.” In the fall, Mr. Brewer, as a guest of NAESP, will travel to Washington, D.C., for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools.

Criteria for selection of the principals, set by NAESP, require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations. Mr. Brewer was previously recognized for leadership with the VAESP School Bell Award, the VA Impact Award, ASCD, Nationally Distinguished Title 1 School, NASTID, and Culture Educator of the Year, VIF. He is an active member of NAESP/VAESP, and the NAESP Mentoring Program.

Call James P. Baldwin (VAESP headquarters) at 804-355-6791 for additional information.