

Spring 2017

# NAPOMLE NEWS

## Outstanding Professors of Middle Level Education



Three middle level professors were awarded the Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education award at the business meeting in Austin.

Leah Kahn (pictured) presented the award to Dr. Lienne Medford, Clemson University.

The other recipients were Dr. Susan Edwards, Augusta University, and Dr. Joanne Previts, Georgia College.

Congratulations to these three ladies! All three have made a significant impact on middle level teacher education.



## Annual Conference for Middle Level Education

**November 6-8, 2017**

**Philadelphia, PA**

## Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Education

This special ticketed event is an add-on option to your AMLE2017 registration, and takes place on Sunday, November 5

### NAPOMLE Sessions:

- Session Title: National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NAPOMLE) Best Practices Session  
Schedule: Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm
- Session Title: National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NAPOMLE) Business Meeting  
Schedule: Tuesday, November 7, 2017, 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm



# call for Awards



***Please consider nominating a colleague and/or program for recognition at the AMLE conference in November.***  
NAPOMLE has five awards that recognize the outstanding contribution made to middle level education. Here is a list of the awards:

- 1) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program
- 2) Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education
- 3) Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Candidate
- 4) Honorary Professor Emeritus Award
- 5) Outstanding CMLA Chapter

The criteria for each award is listed below. Please send your nominations/letters of support, and a vita for all individual awards to Leah Kahn at [llkahn@sfasu.edu](mailto:llkahn@sfasu.edu) by August 21, 2017. If you have any questions, please contact Leah.

## Criteria for Awards

### Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program

- University (Unit level) has achieved NCATE Accreditation and Program has been recognized by NMSA SPA or approved through the state partnership review standards
- Licensure for grades 5 – 8, 6-9, or intermediate level
- Models NMSA practices such as teaming in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the program
- Advocates for teacher candidates by serving as effective advisors, recruiting future students, modeling outstanding teaching and quality supervision of field experiences for candidates
- Proven successful by its graduates through attestations such as recruitment for employment, teaching success, alumni surveys, etc.
- Clearly stated mission or vision aligned with THIS WE BELIEVE

### Honorary Professor Emeritus Award with lifelong membership awarded

- Former Professor of Middle Level Education
- Successful record of teaching for at least ten years
- Made significant impact/contribution to middle level education
- Member in good standing of NAPOMLE
- University Support from former colleagues and/or team members

### Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education

- Has taught successfully at the university level for at least five years
- Has made a significant impact/contribution to middle level education
- Has a longstanding record of participating in program improvement
- Has established a successful and longstanding result with teacher candidates
- Advocates for young adolescents through leadership opportunities at the local, state, and national levels as well as in the university classroom.
- Member of NMSA/NCATE BOE or SPA Reviewer or State Program Reviewer.
- Member in good standing of NAPOMLE.

### Outstanding CMLA Chapter

- Member in good standing of National Middle Level Association
- Has shown a record of leadership within the organization (serving as Host Site, attending CMLA Leadership Spring Conferences, presence at state and national conferences)

- Maintains communication systems for recruiting members, keeping members apprised of meetings, and developing quality meetings to ensure members acquire professional growth, etc. (ie. website or brochures or email or Facebook)
- Participates in Month of the Young Adolescent
- Active in University Clubs/Activities Organization (i.e. University presence)
- Mentors other CMLA chapters

#### **Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Candidate**

- Enrolled in accredited Middle Level Teacher Education Program
- GPA 3.0 or better
- Active member of CMLA
- Exhibits knowledge, performances, and dispositions embodied by the NMSA Standards
- Recognized by faculty, cooperating teachers, and peers for significant contributions to the education of young adolescents

### Notes from NAPOMLE

#### Business Meeting:

The **following individuals were elected by acclimation, according to our bylaws (see Article IV, Section 4).** The following positions are open:

*\*Each officer serves for a period of two years and regional directors serve for a period of three years.*

**President-Elect:** The President and President-Elect will plan and preside over the Executive Council meeting prior to the annual business meeting each year. The president-elect chairs the elections committee. This committee shall solicit nominations, confirm willingness to serve, collect bios from nominees, and organize and preside over an election at the annual business meeting. Election results will be reported to the Association.

- **Dr. Gary Senn:** Gary J. Senn, Ph.D. is a full professor at the University of South Carolina Aiken. He is a former middle school teacher and has been active in middle level education for many years. He is the director of the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Middle-level Interdisciplinary Strategies for Teaching (CE-MIST). He is also the director of the Ruth Patrick Science Education Center (RPSEC), which is housed at USC Aiken and boasted more than 80,000 visits to its various programs during the previous fiscal year. Many middle level students come to the RPSEC where Gary has the opportunity to be the teacher for some of them and provide engaging, hands-on, integrated educational programs. Dr. Senn served as President of the South Carolina Professors of Middle Level Education (SC-PoMLE) (President-Elect 2010-2012, President 2012-14, Past-President 2014-Present). He currently serves on the NaPOMLE board as one of the Southern Regional Directors. He has co-presented a number of sessions and has co-authored a number of articles in state and national venues. In addition to these achievements, Gary is the director of the South Carolina Center of Excellence in Educational Technology (CEET) and the DuPont Planetarium.

**Secretary:** The Secretary chairs the publications committee and is responsible for taking minutes at both the Executive Council meeting and the annual business meeting of the Association.

- **Dr. Holly Pinter:** Holly Henderson Pinter, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of elementary and middle grades mathematics education at Western Carolina University. She has a PhD in Mathematics Education from the University of Virginia. She also holds a BSEd and a MAEd from Western Carolina University in Middle Grades Mathematics and Language Arts. She spent 5 years teaching middle school mathematics in the mountains of North Carolina.

**Awards Committee Member:** The Awards Committee shall solicit nominations and collect materials/letters of support. This committee will review nominees and make decisions for each award. Recipients will be submitted to the Executive Council for approval and awards will be presented at the annual business meeting. Two committee members shall be elected and serve two year rotating terms. The longest serving member will act as chair. \*This person will serve as member this year and chair next year.

- **Dr. Ann Yehle:** Ann Yehle, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of educational studies at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse (UW-L). She is past middle school principal at both the Turning Points School and an IB Middle Years Programme. Ann currently serves as Professional Development (PDS) Coordinator for Longfellow Middle School and teaches middle level pedagogy as well as within the principal training program at UW-L. She is the Collegiate Association of Middle Level Education (C-AMLE) advisor and has served on the Wisconsin Association of Middle Level Education (WAMLE) state board.

**We are still in great need of the following Regional Directors:**

**Northern Regional Director:** It is the responsibility of the Regional Directors to organize and carry out events and activities within the region and report on events and activities at the business meeting.

**Western Regional Director:** It is the responsibility of the Regional Directors to organize and carry out events and activities within the region and report on events and activities at the business meeting.

**Last, but not least,** members will now receive an email from the Treasurer each year noting the renewal date. Tonja Fillipino is the current Treasurer. Please visit the [membership page](#) on our website for more information (or simply mail the attached form). If you have any questions, please email Tonja at [tfillippino@astate.edu](mailto:tfillippino@astate.edu). Please do remember that you may now join/renew both AMLE and NAPOMLE at the same time. Go to the [Dual Membership](#) page and choose NAPOMLE from the list.

## **NAPOMLE Business Meeting Official Minutes**

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 - 6:00 PM - 31 in attendance

- I. Welcome by Nancy Mizelle
- II. Nancy Ruppert, President Elect AMLE – Greetings from AMLE
  - a. AMLE Strategic Planning Committee – Nancy is in charge
  - b. Looking at the mission and vision to make sure tightly aligned and promoting This We Believe and AMLE is talking on the same page
  - c. Looking for more engagement, increased membership of AMLE and by having principals to have institutional membership, Hawaii is 1<sup>st</sup> state to have all middle school teachers as AMLE members
  - d. \$199 to do institutional membership and they get access to all resources
- III. Sean Faulkner from AMLE SIG – Middle Level Education Research
  - a. Shout out to Penny for coordinating the symposium and having all organizations together to have conversation about same topic and hope for more cooperation between affiliates
  - b. Research agenda available on SIG website
  - c. Remind SIG sponsors handbook of research and handbook of resources
  - d. Call for manuscripts for new volume called Preparing ML Educators for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools  
Enduring Beliefs, Changing Times, Evolving Practices

- IV. Nancy Mizelle asked Penny about symposium for next year to see if discussion – Penny said as long as we want to have it will happen - registration has consistently gone up
- V. Nancy Flowers – research agenda related to ML education
  - a. member of advisory committee for research agenda document to guide ML research for next 5 years
  - b. There is a great need for ML research
  - c. 8 topic areas part of the agenda, 8 different works groups came to develop research questions for the 8 areas
  - d. Want to hear from you and know how to partner together
- VI. Diane Ross update on CMLA
  - a. Great opportunity for students to be in leadership
  - b. John Swain proposed some changes where students are at center
  - c. Advisory committee agreed to stay with student centered leadership
  - d. Had spring symposium but was not attended well by outside people – so is this still a viable option
  - e. Suggest continue to have in conjunction with symposium and maybe do virtual in spring
  - f. Couple things from chair now
    - i. Documents coming forward about CMLA – respond to those
    - ii. Be careful about leader support - Support young leaders and make sure they have opportunities to be successful
    - iii. Encourage opportunities statewide as well as opportunities at own universities
    - iv. 90 CMLA at conference – but cost is issue
    - v. Dave suggested free registration and membership to AMLE for CMLA members and AMLE in long run would benefit
    - vi. Maybe have MAPOMLE sponsor a CMLA members registration
    - vii. It was suggested if you don't have a CMLA chapter, get one started
- VII. Nancy Mizelle noted Beverly sent minutes electronically and no response for corrections were sent. Michelle Williams move to accept and Laurie Ramirez 2<sup>nd</sup>, no opposition.
- VIII. Nancy Mizelle –
  - a. New website, just type in NAPOMLE and it will pop up – grad assistant working to get it up to date and functional
  - b. New Facebook page – send information to Michelle Williams
  - c. Board discussed looking at mission, vision and goals and recommends we pursue this next year
  - d. Journal update – Daphne Hubbard at KSU is editor – past put out 2 issues a year, currently not enough submission to get 2 quality per year, executive council voted to go to 1 journal per year, looking for more submission, information is on the NAPOMLE website as well as available on ERIC
  - e. Dual membership, for NAPOMLE and AMLE, search affiliate on AMLE website so you can do membership at the same time, a little cheaper
- IX. Nancy Mizelle asked the officers to stand and be recognized, stated the committee structure is working nicely. She thanked officers for work and Dave for chairing the committee to change the constitution and bylaws
- X. Tonja – gave handout with the treasurers report – finances gone down due to membership down
  - a. Going to October to October membership so treasurer can notify when membership is due
  - b. Membership forms on table and can write check today
  - c. Can pay electronically dual membership with AMLE
  - d. Question regarding expenditures for last year – plaques, food (this year +500)

- a. Beverly reported last year conversation was to go to just drinks and snack since food was so expensive – may want to have another conversation about no food or drink
  - e. Dave made a motion that we have no food or drinks for future meeting and that the money go to scholarship, Nancy 2<sup>nd</sup>, no opposition.
- XI. Leah Kahn presented awards for Gail
- a. 3 for outstanding professors of ML education, Leanne Medford from Clemson University, Joanne Previts from GA College, and Susan Edwards from Augusta University
  - b. Leah went over all the awards we offer that had no nominations, Outstanding ML Teacher Ed Program, Outstanding ML Teacher Candidate, Honorary Professor Emeritus, Outstanding CMLA Chapter
  - c. Nancy mentioned we would get information next spring about proposals and submitting awards
- XII. Kim Winter – Chair of Election Committee, sent email with nominations
- a. President Elect, Gary Sean
  - b. Secretary, Holly Pinter
  - c. Awards Committee member, (Leah will be chair)
  - d. Regions – Northern, Western, South, will need since Gary is President Elect,
  - e. Kim will send bios for president and secretary by 21<sup>st</sup>, on the eve of 21<sup>st</sup> survey to vote until Nov 1 and will get announcement for final
  - f. April 1<sup>st</sup> send out call for proposal and awards – proposals due June 15, awards due August 1
  - g. Other nominations send to Kim – bios just a paragraph
  - h. Ann Yehle volunteered for the Northern region
- XIII. Regional News
- a. Deb Pattee reported Minnesota does conference every December, Wisconsin did pre-service workshop with over 100 in attendance
  - b. Kim reported for Alicia Wenzel, Northwest – working with Dru Tomlin setting up a regional ML conference in Oregon 2017, 1 day Portland event, they awarded Oregon ML Outstanding Cooperating Teacher of Year
  - c. Eastern, Chris Wieler reported 2 conferences, one Nov 8 and Feb 26-28 - next year's conference in Philadelphia
  - d. Southern, Amanda Wall reported she and Gary are looking to grow membership in NAPOMLE, they have data base for people in their states, GMSA conference Feb 26-28
  - e. Gary Sean looking for interest in Southeastern Symposium for May 2018 in Greenville, SC
- XIV. Nancy allowed time for introductions and sharing research interests
- XV. Nancy turned the presidency over to Kim Winter
- XVI. Adjourned 7:00 PM

### **NAPOMLE – Regional News**

### **Wisconsin Seeks to Become a Schools to Watch State**

During the past six years, there has been interest in developing a Schools to Watch (STW) program in Wisconsin. Currently, past and present members of the Wisconsin Association of Middle Level Education (WAMLE) Board are working with the WI Department of Public Instruction (WI DPI), [Ericka Uskali](#) the Executive Director of the National Forum, and interested superintendents, principals, and teacher from four school districts to submit a state application. Advocates for middle level learners in Wisconsin look forward to joining the list of 17 states that have already earned STW



designations. For more information about Wisconsin's journey to become a STW state, contact Dr. Ann Yehle [ayehle@uwlax.edu](mailto:ayehle@uwlax.edu) or Dr. Deb Pattee [patteedk@uwec.edu](mailto:patteedk@uwec.edu)

## News from Georgia

Georgia Middle School Association (GMSA) held its conference in Valdosta in late February. Part of the conference was the Best Practices session for the Georgia Professors of Middle Level Education. The following teacher educators joined this Best Practices session: Kristina Falbe, Nancy Mizelle, and Joanne Previts (Georgia College); Amanda Wall (Georgia Southern); Rhonda Amerson (Middle Georgia State University); Gayle Andrews (University of Georgia); and Nancy Ruppert (University of North Carolina, Asheville). We were delighted that Nancy Ruppert, President-Elect of AMLE, was able to join us for the entire GMSA conference.

Retirement News: Ronnie Sheppard will retire from Georgia Southern University at the end of the 2016-2017 year. Dr. Sheppard has been a middle grades educator for decades with long-term involvement in NMSA/AMLE and Georgia Middle School Association. He also served as department chair in the College of Education for many years.

## Position Announcement

### **Position Title: Chair, Department of Teaching and Leading**

Department Chair Reporting directly to the Dean of the College of Education, the Chair will be a dynamic and accomplished leader who will provide outstanding oversight and stewardship for the administrative, financial, and academic program components, and who will collaboratively develop a vision for the continued growth of the educational, research, and service missions of the department.

**Required Qualifications** The successful candidate will have the following qualifications: (a) an earned doctorate from an accredited institution with a specialty in one of the teaching areas represented within the department, (b) a distinguished record of teaching and scholarship that merits appointment at the rank of Associate/Full Professor, (c) administrative experience in an academic unit, (d) excellent interpersonal and communication skills, (e) budget management skills, and (f) a demonstrated commitment to educational and cultural needs of a diverse population.

**Preferred Qualifications:** Preferred qualifications include: (a) experience in a Research 1 institution (b) experience in higher education as a department chair, program coordinator or comparable leadership position. (c) experience with the CAEP/NCATE accreditation process, (d) success in seeking and obtaining external funding, (e) innovative/creative skill as a leader to promote faculty growth and to develop partnerships with P-12 schools, (f) experience as an educator in P-12 schools, and (g) ability and qualifications to teach research methods or foundations courses.

### **The Application Process**

Applicants should submit a letter of interest, a comprehensive curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference. Confidential review of materials will begin February 1, 2017 and continue until the appointment is made. On behalf of the Search Committee, candidate materials will be received electronically by: Sharon R. Wingard Executive Search Consultant Augusta University [executivesearch@augusta.edu](mailto:executivesearch@augusta.edu)

### **More information:**

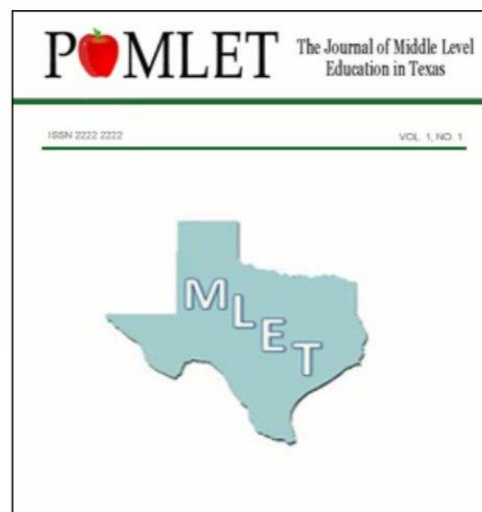
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## Seeking Submissions!!!!!!

Go to: <http://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/mlet/>

Welcome to *MLET: The Journal of Middle Level Education in Texas*!

*MLET* addresses all levels of middle level education and various educational contexts, including public and private education in the United States and abroad. The audience for the journal is made up of educators who are interested in advancing research, learning, and classroom practice in the middle grades. Articles should promote good research, teaching, service, and leadership in middle grades education.



Current Issue: Volume 4, Issue 1 (2017)



NEW - Like us  
on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/National-Association-of-Professors-of-Middle-Level-Education-Napomle-1457923114259736/>

Send new items / photos to Michelle Williams [williamsdm@sfasu.edu](mailto:williamsdm@sfasu.edu)

Reach out to your colleagues and encourage them to become members of NAPOMLE. The organization:

- Provides a professional network to enhance the exchange of information and ideas, as well as, to encourage the discussion of topics related to the preparation of middle level educators
- Contributes to the development of an expanded middle level research base, and provides additional means for sharing and disseminating current research and ideas among those interested in middle level education
- Serves actively as advocates for the middle school movement, especially in terms of promoting middle level concepts among various publics commonly dealt with in the preparation of middle level educators
- Shares in the advocacy for the middle school movement by supporting the stated purposes and goals of the [Association for Middle Level Education](#).





## NAPOMLE Board 2017

### **Kim Winter - President**

Western Carolina University  
One University Way  
201P2 Killian Building  
Cullowhee, NC 28723

### **Gary Senn - President-Elect**

University of South Carolina at Aiken  
RPSEC303  
Aiken, SC 29801

### **Nancy Mizelle - Past President**

Georgia College and State University  
185 Admiral Way NW  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
[Nancy.mizelle@gcsu.edu](mailto:Nancy.mizelle@gcsu.edu)

### **Tonja Fillipino - Treasurer**

Arkansas State University  
2713 Pawnee  
State University, AR 72467

### **Holly Pinter - Secretary**

Western Carolina University  
One University Way  
School of Teaching & Learning  
Cullowhee, NC 28723

### **Eucabeth Odhiambo - Director, Eastern Region**

Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main  
Shippensburg, PA 17257

**Christopher Weiler - Director, Eastern Region**

Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
 15200 Kutztown Road  
 Beekey 126  
 Kutztown, PA 19530

**Amanda Wall - Director, Southern Region**

Georgia Southern University  
 4126 College of Education Building  
 Statesboro, GA 30460

**Gary Senn - Director, Southern Region**

University of South Carolina at Aiken  
 RPSEC303  
 Aiken, SC 29801

**Ann Yehle - Director, Northern Region**

University of Wisconsin - La Crosse  
 1725 State Street  
 300D Morris Hall  
 La Crosse, WI 54601

**Gale Ingwalson - Director, Northern Region**

University of North Dakota  
 231 Centennial Drive, Stop 7189  
 Grand Forks, ND 58202  
[Gail.ingwalson@und.edu](mailto:Gail.ingwalson@und.edu)

**Alicia Wenzel - Director, Western Region**

Western Oregon University  
 345 Monmouth Ave.  
 Monmouth, OR 97361

**NAPOMLE Committees****Finance**

Tonja Fillipino, Chair

Laura Richly

**Elections**

Gary Senn, Chair

Bob Ziegenfuss  
 Shippensburg University  
 1871 Old Main  
 Shippensburg, PA 17257

**Publications**

Holly Pinter, Chair

Michelle Williams  
 Stephen F. Austin State University  
 PO Box 13017 SFA Station  
 Nacogdoches, Texas 75964

**Awards**

Leah Kahn, Chair  
 Stephen F. Austin State University  
 PO Box 13017 SFA Station  
 Nacogdoches, Texas 75964

Ann Yehle

## More Pictures from the 2016 AMLE Conference

