

# NAPOMLE NEWS

## One of our own...Nancy Ruppert Elected to AMLE Board of Trustees



**Taken from an AMLE Press Release shared by Nancy...** “Nancy Bell Ruppert, professor in the Department of Education at the University of North Carolina-Asheville (UNCA), has been elected to serve as President-Elect on the Board of Trustees of the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE). Previously a middle grades classroom teacher, and a 1998 Teacher of the Year, Ruppert has made it a point to return to teaching throughout her career as a professor. She is currently on leave from UNCA, teaching eighth grade math at West McDowell Middle School in Marion, North Carolina. Ruppert has served as president of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education, project investigator of the NC Quest Enduring Understanding grant, and co-chaired the first two Southeastern Regional Professors of Middle Level Education (SERPOMLE) symposia... ‘It is both exciting and rewarding to participate in an organization in which myriad professors, teachers, administrators, families, communities, school district personnel, and government officials around the world collaborate to serve and celebrate young adolescents via avenues of knowledge, passion, creativity, and hope.’ said Ruppert.

Members of the AMLE Board of Trustees serve a critical role in setting the strategic plan of the association and advocating for policies and practices that guarantee a quality education for all young adolescents.

‘We are pleased to have Nancy join the AMLE Board as we engage in the important work of making a difference in the lives of students,’ said Executive Director William Waidelich.”

### **Words from Nancy to NAPOMLE...**

“I am both thrilled and humbled to have been elected to the AMLE Board of Trustees, president-elect. I know it would not have happened without the support of professors around the world. Thank you. I have been in touch with former presidents of NMSA/AMLE asking them to share advice. Their wisdom is heart-warming, caring, and hopeful. From their words, I hear the following.

Our call, as middle level educators, is to remain true to the history of middle-level education, which speaks to why we serve this age group differently. Our call is to tirelessly advocate for young adolescents and for those who work for and with them; and to enjoy the opportunities to collaborate with one another as we remind others of the strategies, the value, the research, and the importance of serving this age group.

Thank you for your support. Our work as middle-level advocates is extremely important. I am honored and committed to what we do.”



## Annual Conference for Middle Level Education

October 9 – 12, 2016

Austin, Texas

### Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Education – Sunday, October 9 – Austin, Texas

The Association for Middle Level Education in collaboration with the AMLE Professional Preparation Advisory Committee, the AMLE Research Advisory Committee, the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education and the American Educational Research Association Middle Level Education Research SIG, is pleased to present the 2016 Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Education as a special ticketed event on Sunday, October 9, 2016. The symposium will include concurrent sessions focused on middle level teacher education programs, practices, and policies; a keynote; and small group breakout sessions facilitated by leaders in middle level teacher education.

\*6.5 professional learning contact hours

\*\*In order to purchase your ticket for the Symposium on Middle Level Teacher Education, you must be registered to attend AMLE2016. The registration rate for the Symposium is \$199 through September 25, 2016 and you may register for both event either online or download the PDF form.

<http://www.amle.org/annual/Attendees/ConferenceSessions/tabid/222/Default.aspx>

**NAPOMLE Best Practices Session - Tuesday, October 11, 2016 4:15 pm - 5:30 pm**

**NAPOMLE Business Meeting - Tuesday, October 11, 2016 5:45 pm - 7:00 pm**



### NAPOMLE Roundtable Presentations



The National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education (NAPOMLE) sponsors a round table session in research findings, best practices in teacher preparation and administrative trends with regard to middle level education. Enjoy discussion with peers and sharing ideas and take home information you can use in your middle level teacher preparation program and with your teacher candidates. Sessions and speakers are listed below:

**Middle School Teacher Self-Efficacy and English Language Learners: A Study in Preparedness**

*Tracy Butler and Lienne Medford*

**Get Ready, Get Set: Preclinical Assignments for a Middle Level Mathematics Methods Course**

*Victoria Childs and Bridget Coleman*

**State Level POMLEs Unite**

*Bridget Coleman, Gary Senn, Lienne Medford, Bea Bailey, and Deborah McMurtrie*

**Pre-Service and In-Service Teachers Speak Out: The Importance of Clinically-rich STEM Middle Level Teacher Preparation**

*Cheryl Ellerbrock, UndreCia Pedraza, Kristen Yakkof, Michael Morris, and Montenique Woodward*

**Transitioning to a Year-Long Internship**

*Tonja Fillippino and Ron Towery*

**Developing a Shared Understanding of Effective Middle Level Practice: Cross-Institutional Collaboration**

*Penny Howell, Margaret Rintamaa, Shawn Faulkner, and Mike DiCicco*

**Linking Theory to Practice Through Improved Information Literacy Skills: A Teacher Preparation and Library Collaboration**

*Brian Kahn*

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(Sessions continued)

**Resistance of Parents in their Children's Education: New Teachers' Perceptions and Strategies**

*Mark McJunkin*

**Tiering a Professional Development School (PDS) Partnership**

*Deborah McMurtrie, Bridget Coleman, and Gary Senn*

**Teaching Flexible Scheduling**

*Gregory Meeks, Ron Towery, and Mark McJunkin*

**Gallery Walk of Best Practices: Using Academic Posters to Disseminate Middle Level Research**

*Lienne Medford and Bea Bailey*

**Schools to Watch: A Tool to Apply Understanding of Middle Level Concepts**

*Nicole Miller*

**Writing about Historical Figures**

*Ronda Mitchell*

**How the edTPA (Teacher Performance Assessment) Resulted in Better Teaching**

*Deb Pattee*

**Learning to Teach at the Middle-Level: Exploring Candidates' Development of Values**

*Holly Pinter, Kim Winter, and David Strahan*

**Enacting Critical Pedagogy with Middle Level Preservice Social Studies Teachers**

*Laurie Ramirez and Elizabeth Bellows*

**Going Back into the Classroom as Professional Development for Middle Level Professors: Lessons Learned**

*Nancy Ruppert*

**Teaching about Adolescent Development through Service Learning Projects**

*Linda Schlosser*

**From Day One – Diversity**

*Paula Stewart and Sue Anselm*

**Experiencing a Flipped Learning Model in Middle Grades Teacher Education**

*Amanda Wall*

**7th Grade Visit: Classroom to Campus Collaboration**

*Carol Watson, Emily Roman, and Leigh Anne Machowski*

**Teacher Candidates' Perceptions of the Effect of Content Methods Courses on Confidence and Self-Efficacy**

*Christopher Weiler, and Mary Ann O'Neil*

**Preparing Middle Level Teacher Candidates to Create and Implement Meaningful Language Objectives**

*Michelle Williams, Leah Kahn, Claudia Whitley, and Mark Montgomery*

**Embarrassment Free Poetry**

*Cynthia Wilson*

**Developing Change Agency in the Young Adolescent Learner**

*Ann Yehle*

**CMLA: The Future?**

*Robert Ziegenfuss, Eucabeth Odhiambo, Nancy B. Mizelle, and Diane Ross*

**Creating Innovative School-University Partnerships**

*Jeanneine Jones and Joyce Brigman*

Remember to keep your NAPOMLE dues up to date!  
Contact Tonja Fillipino, treasurer, at [tfillipino@astate.edu](mailto:tfillipino@astate.edu)  
for up to date information on your dues.





# call for Awards



**Please consider nominating a colleague and/or program for recognition at the AMLE conference in October.** NAPOMLE has five awards that recognize the outstanding contribution made to middle level education. Here are 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 below. Please send your nominations to Gail Ingwalson at [gail.ingwalson@UND.edu](mailto:gail.ingwalson@UND.edu) by September 1, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact Gail.

## 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

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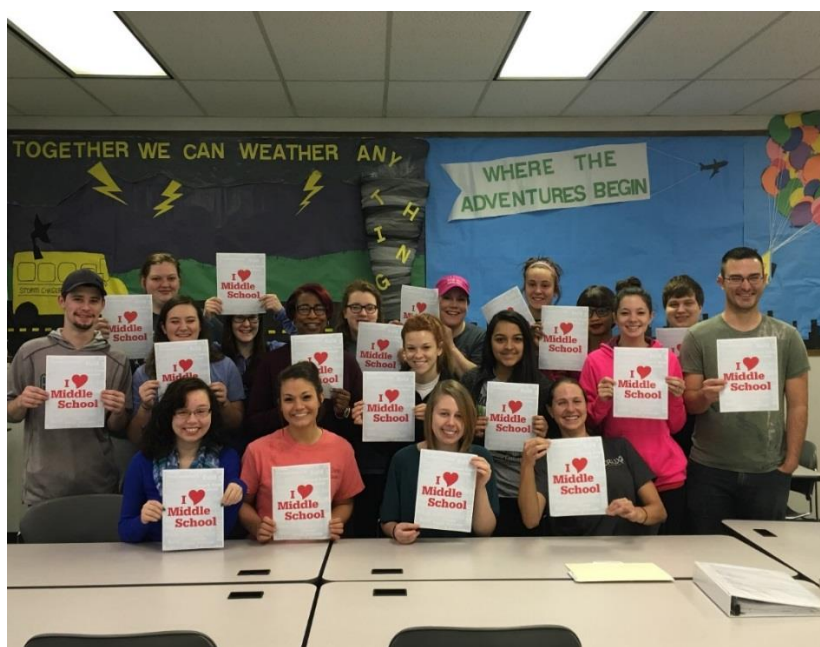
(Awards continued...)

### 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

**LOOKING FOR AMLE PROGRAM REVIEWERS** “There will be training to be an AMLE program reviewer at the national conference in Austin. We need more reviewers as our ranks begin to retire. If you are interested, please contact Lienne Medford directly at [Lienne@clermson.edu](mailto:Lienne@clermson.edu). She will e-mail interested folks the time and place of training as soon as the session is scheduled. This is an excellent way to put national service on you resume. “

**Lienne Medford, Clemson University**



Arkansas Tech University  
Russellville, Arkansas

Introduction to Middle Level  
Education Class, Spring 2016

Dr. V. Carole Smith, Professor  
Middle Level Education  
(That's me with the red hair  
and glasses.) 😊

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.

# Regional NEWS

From Gary Senn...

The South Carolina (SC) PoMLE had its annual meeting in association with SC AMLE on March 4, 2016 in Myrtle Beach, SC. SC PoMLE meets for a full day each year prior to the SC AMLE annual meeting. During the meeting, we heard reports from the various SC PoMLE stakeholders including SC AMLE; AMLE; Middle Level Teacher Education Initiative; NA POMLE; SC Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement; SC Department of Education; SC Commission on Higher Education; and reports from professional journals. The participants participated in a gallery walk that focused on topics including, Praxis II Issues, Add on Licensure, SC Read to Succeed, and Content Area Literacy. We heard a presentation about a recent video capture project that included a preservice teacher presenter, Kirsten Baker. Many participants reported that it was one of the best meetings that the group has had.

2016-2017 SC PoMLE Officers:

President: Bridget Coleman, University of South Carolina Aiken

Past President: Gary Senn, University of South Carolina Aiken

President-Elect: Lienne Medford, Clemson University

Secretary/Treasurer: Bea Bailey, Clemson University

Representative, Private Colleges/Universities: Amy Ellisor, Columbia College

Representative, Public Colleges/Universities: Nate Carnes, University of South Carolina

Representative, At-large: Deborah McMurtrie, University of South Carolina Aiken

Representative, At-large: David Vawter, Winthrop University

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From Alicia Wenzel...

1. Our Oregon Middle Level Consortium (OR POMLE) are creating proposal with rationale for a Middle School specialization based on the AMLE Standards which can be offered at universities and colleges.
2. Regional MLC conference- Our Oregon Middle Level Consortium (OR POMLE) are working with Dru Tomlin from AMLE to put together a NW regional conference for middle level pre-service teachers, practitioners, and higher ed faculty who work with middle level education. We are looking at Nov. 2016 to follow the work and excitement from the national conference in Austin- still in the early planning stages. We will be deciding on the strands in the next month, and settle on a location. We will then start to promote the conference and solicit proposals for sessions. The conference will be packed 1-day affair, with a key note, breakout/concurrent sessions and an additional featured speaker or panel (to be determined). As of right now, our theme will be "Success in the Middle Grades"
3. ML licensure updates from TSPC (our accreditation body) include:
  - a. To add a Middle Level Core Subject endorsement (OAR 220):
    - i. Teachers must pass the subject-level foundational test
    - ii. If below a Professional Certification, must complete a 60-hour practicum OR a pedagogy course for the middle level
    - iii. Does not require recommendation by the program
    - iv. Art, PE, Music, Drama must be in a commission approved program, which results in recommendation from the program

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Congratulations to Abigail Jefferson Armstrong who was awarded tenure in May of 2016 at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC!!



From Nancy Ruppert...

I took a year off from teaching at the university. I am on leave from UNCA, teaching 8th grade at West McDowell Middle School in Marion, NC. (My last day with students is June 10.... I am kind of tired..lol.) It has been one of the most powerful, insightful, joyful, challenging, and energizing professional development opportunities. I am grateful to the university and to McDowell County School Board for supporting this endeavor.

I kept a blog of the experience. The purpose of the blog is to provide preservice teachers and those new to middle level education with insight into middle schools, young adolescents, and middle school teaching. [Middleschool2015-2016.blogspot.com](http://Middleschool2015-2016.blogspot.com) is the link.

I look forward to continuing to share the passion and stories of why we do what we do; and to share what works with the world.



Nancy

Pictures of Nancy's experience at West McDowell Middle School



So, which one is Nancy??



# NAPOMLE Board 2016

## NAPOMLE Officers

### **President 2014 – 2016**

Nancy B. Mizelle  
George College & State University  
185 Admiral Way NW  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
Nancy.mizelle@gcsu.edu

### **Past President: 2012 – 2014**

Robert G. Ziegenfuss  
Shippensburg University  
1871 Old Main  
Shippensburg, PA 17257  
rgziegenfuss@ship.edu

### **Secretary 2014 – 2016**

Beverly Garner  
Clayton State University  
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Morrow, GA 30260  
beverlygarner@clayton.edu

### **President Elect 2014 – 2016**

Kim Winter  
Western Carolina University  
91 Killian Building Lane  
Cullowhee, NC 28723  
kkruebel@wcu.edu

### **Treasurer:**

Tonja Fillipino  
Arkansas State University  
2713 Pawnee  
State University, AR 72467  
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## NAPOMLE Directors

### Eastern Region

#### **2014 – 2017**

Eucabeth Odhiambo  
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Shippensburg, PA 17257  
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#### **2016-2019**

Christopher Weiler  
Kutztown University  
[cweiler@kutztown.edu](mailto:cweiler@kutztown.edu)

### Western Region

#### **2012 – 2015**

Alicia Wenzel  
Western Oregon University  
345 Monmouth Ave.  
Monmouth, OR 97361  
[wenzela@wou.edu](mailto:wenzela@wou.edu)

**Western Region needs  
representatives contact  
(Nancy.mizelle@gcsu.edu) with  
suggestions**

### Southern Region

#### **2016 – 2019**

Amanda Wall  
Georgia Southern University  
4126 College of Education Building  
Statesboro, GA 30460  
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#### **2014 – 2017**

Gary Senn  
University of South Carolina at  
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RPSEC303Aiken, SC 29801  
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### Northern Region

#### **2016 – 2019**

Gail Ingwalson  
University of North Dakota  
231 Centennial Drive, Stop 7189  
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#### **2013 – 2016**

Deborah Patten  
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## NAPOMLE Committees

### Finance

Tonja Fillipino, Chair  
Laura Richly

### Elections

Kim Winter, Chair  
Bob Ziegenfuss

### Publications

Beverly Garner, Chair  
Michelle Williams

### Awards

Gail Ingwalson, Chair  
Leah Kahn