
OCTOBER 7, 2022



This year, we are celebrating 25 years of NAPOMLE! Our organization brings together middle level education professors from around our nation. From its inception, NAPOMLE has strived to provide “a forum for middle level educators to share information and ideas, and to network with one another to the benefit of the middle grades movement.” This year we are honoring the past while envisioning the future.

In the spirit of Sankofa, we reached out to some past-presidents and leaders of NAPOMLE for words of inspiration. We honor those who have gone before us. Below are messages to NAPOMLE on our Silver Anniversary from Jay Herzog (1997 & beyond), Barbara Blackburn (2005-2006) and Nancy Ruppert (2010-2012) to our current members. (Excerpt from Coleman and Ruppert, forthcoming.)

We hope to hear from a few more past leaders during this year’s NAPOMLE Business Meeting. Join us as we reflect on the past while preparing for the future.

A FEW MESSAGES FROM NAPOMLE PAST LEADERS:

“Middle level education...as one of my mentors, Al Arth used to call it at times -- "the range of the strange." I totally agree with that statement about middle level education having served 13 years as a middle school administrator and 7 years as a professor in the first “stand-alone” middle level department in higher education I saw first-hand how volatile these students can be...happy, sad, confused, in love, and depressed all based on how one of their friends looked at them. Furthermore, as a founder, along with John Lounsbury, of the first statewide (Georgia) and national middle level association for those who prepare teachers for the middle level, it is my opinion that these students are the most impressionable of all the grade levels. It is imperative that those who teach and serve in support capacities in middle level schools have received a quality background in the nuances of the students with whom they will interact. I have seen too often teachers/support staff get assigned to the middle level and then anxiously await their "turn" to go to the high school. Middle level teaching/administration must be a passion, a love, and a commitment to helping students in that age range develop, mature, and learn...anything less should not be permitted.”

NAPOMLE Founding Leader (1997), Jay Hertzog, Ph.D.

Years ago, when I stumbled into teaching middle school, I had not received much training; just a couple of additional courses, which did not prepare me appropriately. 20 years later, when I received my PhD, I took a job launching and coordinating the first graduate middle school education program in the state of SC. I was teaching teachers who were just like me--they did not have specialized middle school training at the undergraduate level. That was one of the best experiences of my career--to work with teachers who were excited to learn how to be better middle school educators. Because I wanted to model professional activity, I became the President of NAPOMLE, which allowed me to facilitate networking and sharing of best practices. I remember one professor said, "I'm at a small university and NAPOMLE lets me feel like I'm part of a group of middle level educators. I'm not alone." Supporting professors of middle level education was one of our major successes.”

NAPOMLE President (2005-2006), Barbara R. Blackburn, Ph.D.

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I think one of our biggest gifts has been to collaborate and share best practices with one another. I think equity, diversity, and inclusion need to always be in our arena. Celebrating and helping our faculty of color share their voice and highlight their work in our classes, as thought leaders will carry this organization forward. It is our passion and dedication to young adolescents, and our constant care and advocacy for one another that will help the next generation of leaders thrive in an environment dedicated to making a difference in the lives of young people.

NAPOMLE President (2010-2012), Nancy Ruppert, Ph.D.

I've been grateful for NAPOMLE every year since joining as a first-year professor of middle grades education. I view this organization as a hub for instructional innovation in teacher preparation and a catalyst for programmatic change. It has offered a network of dedicated peers keen to share best practices for the benefit of future middle level teachers across diverse contexts. I'm a better educator for it. -NAPOMLE President (2020-2022), **Hilary Dack, Ph.D.**

We appreciate and honor the work of our past and current NAPOMLE leaders. Thank you for inspiring us to keep innovating in middle level education!

AMLE 2022

We are excited to see you in Orlando next month!

Check out our schedule of presentations on the next 3 pages!

Best Practices Session November 4th

2:45PM-3:45 PM

Naples Room

Business Meeting November 4th

1:30PM-2:30PM

Naples Room



Does your organization have good news, awards, or job announcements to share? We would love to spread the word! Email good news to hhpinter@wcu.edu

Need to pay your dues? Scan or click [here.](#)



2021-2022 NAPOMLE Executive Council

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| President | Hilary Dack, University of North Carolina at Charlotte <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| President-elect | Bridget Coleman, University of South Carolina Aiken <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| Past President | Gary Senn, University of South Carolina Aiken <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| Secretary | Holly Pinter, Western Carolina University <i>2021-2023 Term</i> |
| Treasurer | Leah Kahn, Stephen F. Austin State University <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| Regional Directors | |
| Eastern Regional Director | Patricia Lutz, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania <i>2021-2024 Term</i> |
| Eastern Regional Director | Chris Weiler, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania <i>2019-2022 Term</i> |
| Western Regional Director | Sarah Pennington, Montana State University <i>2020-2023 Term</i> |
| Western Regional Director | Lauren Davis, Montana State University <i>2021-2024 Term</i> |
| Northern Regional Director | Leslie Rogers, University of Wisconsin La Crosse <i>2021-2024 Term</i> |
| Northern Regional Director | Robin Dever, Kent State University - Geauga <i>2019-2022 Term</i> |
| Southern Regional Director | Cheryl Ellerbrock, University of South Florida <i>2021-2024 Term</i> |
| Southern Regional Director | Leah Kahn, Stephen F. Austin State University <i>2019-2022 Term</i> |
| Committee Members | |
| Elections Committee Member | Amanda Wall, Georgia Southern University - Statesboro <i>2021-2023 Term</i> |
| Publications Committee Member | Sarah Pennington, Montana State University <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| Publications Committee - CIMLE Editor | Amanda Wall, Georgia Southern University - Statesboro <i>No Set Term</i> |
| Finance Committee Member | Stacie Pettit, Augusta University <i>2021-2023 Term</i> |
| Awards Committee Member | Michelle Williams, Stephen F. Austin State University <i>2020-2022 Term</i> |
| Awards Committee Member | Kristie Smith, Columbus State University <i>2021-2023 Term</i> |