

A MESSAGE FOR MIDDLE LEVEL PROFESSORS

MOVING TOWARD A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSORS OF MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION: AN UPDATE

These are exciting times for professors of middle level education. Faced with a variety of school reform initiatives and continued criticism of American public schooling in general, we have come to a point where we must speak with a single voice, if we are to be heard. In order to have a strong voice in the discussion of the role of middle schools in the years ahead, we must have a network for advocacy, an association that represents our interests as teacher educators.

The first step in that direction occurred in Baltimore last November at the annual meeting of the National Middle School Association. The Georgia Professors of Middle Level Education, an affiliate of the Georgia Middle School Association, took the initiative to schedule a session for professors of middle level education to discuss the possibility of establishing an association that would be an NMSA affiliate. At that session, the professors in attendance voted unanimously to seek such an alliance. The GA POMLE volunteered to prepare the application form for affiliate status, and a committee was elected from those present to draft a Constitution and Bylaws.

In June, 1997, the NMSA Board of Trustees will meet to consider our application and review the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. It is our hope that the outcome will be favorable. Assuming that the proposal is favorably received, there will be a meeting scheduled concurrently with the NMSA annual meeting in Indianapolis to ratify the proposed Constitution and Bylaws, sign a Charter, and elect officers.

My purpose in relating this information to you is to encourage you to meet with us in Indianapolis and become a charter member of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the

Constitution and Bylaws Committee who have reviewed the draft: Alison Bunte at the University of Wisconsin - Platteville, Jill McClay at the University of Alberta, Shirley Fogelman at West Virginia University, Toni Briegel at Missouri State University, and John Swaim, who has served as our liaison to NMSA.

Our thanks also to Dr. John Lounsbury and the members of the Georgia Professors of Middle Level Education who developed and supported this initiative.

John Myers, Chairman
Constitution & Bylaws Committee
State University of West Georgia
