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MARCH 26, 2021

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**NAPOMLE**

## **NAPOMLE Presidential Updates**

**By: Hilary Dack**

**Recently**, I was talking to a 7th grader about the past twelve months. “I learned a lot in the last year,” he told me. “It may not have been what everyone was planning for me to learn, but life taught me a lot of stuff that matters.”

We’ve all learned a lot that matters since last March, and much of it didn’t align with we’d planned. If your experience as a teacher educator was like mine, you stretched in ways that were previously unimaginable to educate middle level teacher candidates for the new professional world that they will enter.

I’d like to share news of two upcoming events designed to support your work and the work of your program’s graduates, as well as other updates.

### **AMLE Early Career Teacher Retreat**

Have you ever had this experience? For years, each time I traveled to AMLE’s annual conferences across the country, I spent breaks in between sessions scanning the hallway for spots where I could plug in my laptop and catch up on emails.

And every year, without fail, the conference coincided with same the moment in the lives of my program’s recent graduates – now first-year teachers – when the honeymoon period had ended and they sought my support for extreme challenges.

So I spent my conference breaks emailing former students to offer advice and encouragement. As I wrote those messages, I watched crowds of talented middle level educators and advocates walk by me in conference center hallways. And I couldn’t help but wish for a way that the first-year teachers I was emailing could connect directly with AMLE’s resources at the moment in their careers when they needed it most.

As I shared those experiences with other middle level teacher educators, I discovered that they felt the same way. And from those conversations emerged the idea for the new AMLE Early Career Teacher Retreat.

This retreat will be held for the first time **in fall 2021**. It will be a half-day, virtual event that’s separate from AMLE conference proceedings, and it will provide space for beginning teachers to refresh and renew their perspectives. It will offer a combination of inspiring speakers, practical strategies of interest to new teachers, and breakout sessions to connect with experienced teachers in small groups.

Current NAPOMLE members will be able to sponsor some recent graduates to attend for free.

Please be on the lookout for further details about the event and about early registration this spring for sponsored graduates. Details will be emailed to NAPOMLE members soon.

### **NAPOMLE & MLER SIG Collaborative Professional Development for Teacher Educators**

This year, NAPOMLE is collaborating with AERA’s Middle-Level Education Research Special Interest Group to create new opportunities for teacher educators to share ideas related to middle level teacher preparation and the research that informs it across our organizations.

Our first joint panel, tentatively titled Preparing Pre-Service Teachers to Construct Equitable Middle Grades Classrooms, is expected to be held in spring/early summer 2021. It will feature teacher educators from different institutions who will share specific examples of how their programs teach candidates about equity issues throughout coursework and fieldwork.

Join us for an opportunity to learn from other programs about new ways to focus on issues of equity in our core middle level curriculum.

Please be on the lookout for an email with further details about the event soon.

### **Other Updates**

This newsletter marks the launch of NAPOMLE’s new logo. The logo honors our affiliation with AMLE. It will be included in our organization’s future communications, and our website now features it.

As noted below, please mark your calendars to submit a proposal to NAPOMLE’s Best Practices Session at the 2021 AMLE Conference by April 30. We can all benefit from learning about colleagues’ innovations in light of the events of the past year. Join us as we learn from each other’s challenges and celebrate each other’s successes.

Last, please submit nominations for our annual NAPOMLE awards. Let’s honor the outstanding work that’s been accomplished in our field in the last year!

Best wishes for a successful semester to you and your students,

Hilary Dack, NAPOMLE President

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# Dr. Jennifer L. Wilson Teaching Excellence Award

We are pleased to announce that our very own president elect, Bridget Coleman, has received the Jennifer L. Wilson Teaching Excellence Award. The South Carolina Association of Middle Level Education (SCAMLE) established the Dr. Jennifer L. Wilson Teaching Excellence Award in 2011. The Dr. Jennifer L. Wilson Teaching Excellence Award recognizes significant contributions of a classroom teacher, literacy leader, or teacher educator who has had a significant longterm impact on the advancement of middle level teaching excellence in South Carolina schools or colleges and universities. The contribution may be in service, leadership, and/or research.



**Does your state organization have good news or awards to share? We would love to spread the word! Email good news to [hhpinter@wcu.edu](mailto:hhpinter@wcu.edu)**



## 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** on our website. Please send your nominations/letters of support and a current vita (if applicable) to Beth Gound at [goundeliza@sfasu.edu](mailto:goundeliza@sfasu.edu) by September 1, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Beth.

The logo for NAPOMLE features the word "NAPOMLE" in white, bold, uppercase letters centered within a blue rectangular box. This box is set against a background of overlapping red and orange geometric shapes, including triangles and trapezoids, creating a dynamic, layered effect.

# NAPOMLE

## **NAPOMLE Best Practice Sessions 2021: Call for Proposals**

It is that time of year! Please submit your proposal for the NAPOMLE Best Practice Session at the AMLE Conference (National Harbor, MD Nov 12-14, 2020). Please find the call for Best Practices Session [here](#). We continue to utilize an online submission process and you will find the submission link in the call. These will be due April 30th.

Please consider sharing this information with your colleagues who are not currently members of NAPOMLE – encourage them to visit our [website](#), become a [member](#), and submit a proposal. Remember also that you can pay your dues [online](#).



**Like the new logo?  
Check it out on our  
website!**



## **The Early Career Middle Grades Teacher Retreat**

**Nov. 13 11:00-4:00 pm ET**

A virtual mini-conference for early-career educators to connect and renew your professional passion.

**Together we will:**

- Tackle classroom management
- Refresh and reclaim professional passion
- Learn how to work effectively with parents
- Expand your professional network!

### **Registration**

**\$19.99** AMLE Members  
**\$49.99** Non-members

OR: Be sponsored by a  
NAPOMLE faculty advisor for  
FREE registration!

Learn More & Register at [amle.org/retreat](https://amle.org/retreat)

**See Hilary's  
updates on  
page 1 for  
more  
information!**