

For Immediate Release

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Local Educator, Helen McLean, Among Nation's Best K-8 Principals

The National Association of Elementary School Principals Will Honor Helen McLean in October during a 2-day event in Washington, D.C.

[Drexel Hill, PA] - as a 2018 NAESP National Distinguished Principal, representing the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). The National Association of Elementary School Principals established the program in 1984 to recognize and celebrate elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character, and culture for the students, families, and staff members in their learning communities.

The National Distinguished Principals (NDP) program Private School Selection Committee selected McLean to represent private schools as one of the 2018 National Distinguished Principals. Other honorees include representatives from public schools in each of the states, the U.S. Department State schools, U.S. Department of Defense schools, and three other private schools. A graduate of West Chester State College, Ms. McLean has served as principal of Saint Andrew School since 2006. She previously held the position of middle grade teacher for 28 years at the same school.

“Principals create the necessary conditions for providing students with the well-rounded education that they need,” said Dr. L. Earl Franks, CAE, NAESP’s executive director. “NAESP’s National Distinguished Principals program recognizes the outstanding leadership of highly successful principals and their commitment to the children they serve, to their local communities, to their state, and our nation. Working in partnership with classroom teachers and other educators, these principals provide the necessary leadership to improve student achievement and ensure every student has a pathway to success.”

In October, McLean will travel to Washington, D.C., for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools. It is particularly fitting to acknowledge the work of principals in October because it is National Principals Month, which was established to recognize and honor the contributions of school principals toward the success of the nation’s students, and encourage awareness of their significance.

Criteria for selection of the principals require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations.

In her tenure as principal, she took the lead in dramatically reversing declining enrollment and consulting with experts to implement a sustainable budget for the school while still investing in major improvements to the school’s infrastructure. McLean has spearheaded the school’s integration of 21st Century technology into the classroom, and the school’s deep commitment to STEM has resulted in Saint Andrew students consistently advancing in regional science competitions. In McLean’s tenure as principal, the school has installed a modern computer lab and has begun utilizing the LabLearner® science program. Classrooms are on the way to achieving 1:1 technology integration. Using the Instructional Support Team model, the school has been successful at identifying and supporting individual student needs. McLean has also introduced the PBIS model, and the school is poised to fully

integrate the model into the curriculum in the present school year. Acknowledged by colleagues as a tremendous, highly-respected leader who is always looking to move her school and parish forward, McLean is recognized both for her commitment to data-driven school improvement as well as her dedication to mentoring students and teachers alike.

McLean earned a M.Ed. from Cabrini College, and is expected to attain an Ed.D. from Neumann University in December 2018. Other awards include: NCEA 2018 Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award; Foundation for Catholic Education 2018 Hall of Fame Honoree; and 2017-2018 John Stack Award for Outstanding Service to St. Andrew CYO