



GINA LINDER, GASSP PRESIDENT

It is an honor to serve as the 2018 President of GASSP because I have experienced the impact it has on educational leaders. I believe in what the organization does, what it stands for, and the support it provides its members, and I can't encourage you enough to become an active member of GASSP.

My career as an administrator began in October of 2005. It was much sooner than I had anticipated, but as we all know, it's just when we think we have it all figured out that we realize we truly are not the ones in control. One Friday I was teaching American Literature to a group of high school students, and on Monday, I was an assistant principal surrounded by 1200 middle school students. In less than a year and a half, I went from a middle school assistant principal, to a middle school principal, to a high school principal. Looking back now, 12 years later, I can honestly say that GASSP has been a vital part of my learning and growth as a leader.

GASSP is a networking group of some of the most outstanding leaders in education who come together to share, learn, grow, and tackle issues that are of concern to public education. It is highly respected by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, and it is truly an organization that serves its members. I can't imagine what these last twelve years would have been like without GASSP as part of my professional growth, but I also can't imagine what I would have done without the guidance and friendships of the GASSP Board and Membership.

I wish you all the very best as you finish out the 2017-2018 school year, and if I can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Gina Linder, President



UPCOMING CONFERENCES

SUMMER GAEL
July 8-11, 2018 – Jekyll Island, GA

GASSP FALL CONFERENCE
November 10-12, 2018 - Savannah, GA

The GASSP 2018/2019 "Principal of the Year" are Sherri Berry, Coffee Middle School and Dara Bennett, Pierce County High School. More information on our website www.gassp.org.



Dara Bennett
2019 GASSP Principal of the Year
Pierce County HS



Sherri Berry
2019 GASSP MS
Principal of the Year

NASSP Digital Principal of the Year (DPOY)

It is with excitement that I write to announce that the NASSP Digital Principal of the Year (DPOY) application is now open. The DPOY program honors three principals who exhibit bold, creative leadership in their drive to harness the potential of new technologies to advance learning.

Applicants must:

- Be an NASSP or affiliate association member principal in a virtual, public, or private school containing some range of grades 6 through 12.
- Have served as a middle level or high school principal for three or more consecutive years.
- Be a principal, headmaster, or leader of a middle level or high school from one of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, of the U.S. Department of State Office of Overseas Schools.

Applications are due to NASSP by April 30, 2018. More information about the award program can be located at www.nassp.org/dpoy. Three winners will be selected and announced in June.



Award recipients receive:

An expense-paid trip to the 2018 National Principals Conference, July 11–13, in Chicago, including an opportunity to participate in Connectathon, EdCamp, and Throwdown.
Opportunities to present at conferences and education events on behalf of NASSP.
A cover story feature in NASSP's flagship publication, *Principal Leadership* magazine.
Access to the McKinsey Management Program for School Leaders, a dynamic and highly interactive online leadership training program.

NASSP's Student Leadership Advisory Committee



I had the distinct pleasure of being selected to serve for a two year term on NASSP's Student Leadership Advisory Committee. I traveled to Washington, DC on January 23rd to spend some days in Washington, DC with my committee to advocate for public education. Our committee was comprised of two middle school students, six high school students, two teacher advisors, one middle school principal, and two high school principals from across the United States. Our job was to come up with the new advocacy slogan that will in debut in the fall of 2018. The slogan the past two years has been #MakingGlobalChange.

While in Washington, DC, we also got to meet with our Senator and Congressman. I was able to share with Senator Johnny Isakson how important Title IV is to education as it was slated to be in the budget for ESSA at 1.65 billion dollars but was put in the budget at 400 million instead. I received a good response from Senator Isakson as well as the representative from Congressman Doug Collins' office as the House was not in session. The last part of the trip was taking part in the Lead Conference sponsored by NASSP. Over a thousand students attended and we had the opportunity to teach them about being an advocate for education at the local, state, and federal level. It was a wonderful experience to see how education is impacted financially throughout the United States.

Kevin Gaines



Please join the GASSP network of administrators on Twitter by accessing our Twitter account [@gassp](https://twitter.com/gassp). Great networking and Sunday night Twitter chats that are great professional development opportunities.



APPLICATION DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

The Breakout Schools Award is designed to identify, recognize, and showcase Georgia middle schools that are high achieving or dramatically improving student achievement. To nominate a school, **complete the application available at gassp.org and submit to GASSP by September 14, 2018.** Winning schools will receive up to \$1,000 for their school. Please note: Previous winners must wait three years/cycles before applying again.

AP Conference Macon, GA

What does it mean to be a connected leader? Does that mean you constantly use technology tools in your work place, or does it mean you utilize social media outlets daily, or is it the conversation that you have with colleagues, students and parents each day while working in an educational setting? The Connected Leader can be all of these things and ultimately means a successful leader if you manage to stay connected to all your audiences. At the recent assistant principal conference hosted by GASSP in Macon, Georgia, these topics were addressed. Presenters ranged from principals and assistant principals throughout the state, RESA directors, college professors and sponsor representatives. Each person brought their own perspective on what it means to be a connected leader so the audience members gained knowledge of the importance of building relationships with all stake holders through multiple measures. It was an exciting day of learning with plenty of questions on how to take the information shared and make it work at your own school. There were also invitations given for people to visit other schools and programs to see student success in action! The conference concluded with a panel of principals answering questions as to what it takes to be a successful principal in the state of Georgia and the steps each one of them took to get to their current position. This was a transparent look at the dedication and passion that all educational leaders must have in order to have student success in their buildings. Another highlight was the importance of belonging to professional associations such as GASSP and NASSP. Leaders must collaborate with one another in order to learn and grow and we are lucky to have state and national organizations to support us and our daily work and to serve as advocates for educators. It was an impactful day for the presenters and attendees.



WANDA LAW

The conference was held at the Hutchings Career Center in Macon and I would like to thank Dr. Julia Daniely for making the arrangements for us to utilize this facility. It is nice to have a beautiful facility but also fun to be in a place where students and adults are learning at the same time. A huge thank you to the Chef Hardy and the culinary arts students for providing breakfast and lunch for the conference participants. The students were proud of their work and the attendees reaped the benefits of delicious food! Thank you to Georgia Military Academy for sponsoring the lunch. Over all, the conference was a great success and I think everyone who attended left with the excitement and motivation to stay connected through social media, voice and presence in all that we do as educational leaders!

Wanda Law