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RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

State and National Education Leaders Convene in “Happy Valley”

(Harrisburg, PA)—More than 200 elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals, supervisors, school-related vendors and other education leaders will convene in “*Happy Valley*” (State College, PA) for the **LEAD19 Pennsylvania Principals Conference, October 13-14, 2019**, at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. This is the 27th annual conference for the association, which is held statewide each October. This year’s conference co-chairs are Stephanie Keebler, Superintendent, Titusville Area School District, and Dr. Kevin Peters, Middle School Principal, Dallastown Area School District.

“A Pennsylvania Principals Association signature event for principals and other educational leaders will take place on Sunday, October 13th and Monday, October 14th at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. Principals and school leaders will come together to network and hear from dynamic speakers, Dr. Michael Snell and Dr. John Draper, during this two-day event. The LEAD19 conference promises to provide relevant professional development sessions for all levels of administrators. With October being *National Principals Month*, we hope that districts will prioritize the professional growth of their building leadership. The Pennsylvania Principals Association is proud to host and provide this outstanding opportunity for principals and school leaders from around the state,” said Mrs. Keebler.

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Several of the awards to be presented at the conference include the **National Distinguished Principal to Kristopher Vancas**; **State Principal of the Year to Dr. Anthony Mooney**; **Outstanding Assistant Principal to Brian Smith**; and **Robert E. Lavelly Assistant Principal of the Year to Jason Shover**. In addition, the PA Principals Association is proud to present its **2019 Educational Excellence Award to Dr. James Nolan** Retired Professor/Author, College of Education at The Pennsylvania State University. These awards and other recognitions will be presented during **Pennsylvania Principals Association's 35th annual banquet from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 13, 2019.**

“The LEAD19 Conference is the premier professional development program in Pennsylvania to help build high-quality K-12 public, private, elementary, middle level, secondary and charter school leadership,” Michael Allison, Principal of Hopewell High School and the PA Principals Association President, shared. “Principals of all types of schools from across Pennsylvania are excited to gather in “Happy Valley” to build their skills as leaders; to enhance their understanding of “hot button” educational topics; and to develop an extensive professional network to support them in their daily work.”

As part of its continuing community service and outreach efforts, the PA Principals Association is collecting monetary donations prior to its **eighth annual Diamond Sponsors' Social** (Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019) for a local **YWCA Backpack Weekend Food Program**. On Friday afternoons during the school year, participating students receive a backpack containing meals and snacks to take home with them for the weekend. The program has served the following **local school districts in the 2018-19 school year**: Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte Area, CenClear, Glendale, Moshannon Valley, Philipsburg-Osceola, Penns Valley Area, State College Area and West Branch. The Diamond Sponsors' Social is held to acknowledge **PA Principals Association Diamond Sponsors**: Horace Mann Companies, Kades-Margolis Corporation, Lifetouch National School Studios, Lincoln Investment Planning, LLC, and McGraw-Hill Education.

In addition, 59 vendors will be exhibiting their products for schools and classrooms in the Exhibit Hall (*Presidents Hall 1-4, Monday, Oct. 14, 2019*), and numerous small group sessions will be presented to attendees by educators from across the commonwealth as well as two Keynote Addresses by nationally known speakers during the two-day conference. On Sunday, October 13, **Dr. Michael Snell** will present “*The Perfect Storm*” **from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the First General Session** (*Deans Hall*). On Monday, October 14, **Dr. John Draper** will present “*Crucial Conversations About America's Schools*” **from 3:00-4:15 p.m. at the Second General Session** (*Deans Hall*).

“The PA Principals Association is proud to support and encourage the work principals do for the children of our Commonwealth. We thank all principals for serving kids, supporting teachers and for building high-quality learning environments because great principals help make great schools! **Finally, October is dedicated across the nation as National Principals Month!** We urge you to reach out and **#thankaprincipal** who has served you, your community and/or your children well! Principals matter, they make a difference every day for children and they will appreciate your thanks,” said Mr. Allison.

Education Leaders Convene

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For further information, or to schedule an interview or photo, please contact **Sheri L. Thompson**, director of communications/public relations, at (717) 732-4999 or sherit@papprincipals.org until 10/11/19 or sherit3728@yahoo.com after 10/11/19.

About Us: *The Pennsylvania Principals Association* is the consolidated association of the *Pennsylvania Association of Elementary School Principals* (PAESP) and the *Pennsylvania Association of Secondary School Principals* (PASSP).

- The PA Principals Association has approximately 3,800 members throughout the Commonwealth.
- The PA Principals Association membership is made up of elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals, supervisors and other educational leaders.
- The PA Principals Association is affiliated with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).
- The PA Principals Association's 2018-2020 President is Michael E. Allison, a high school principal in the Hopewell Area School District.
- The PA Principals Association's Executive Director is Paul M. Healey, Ph.D.
- The PA Principals Association Assistant Executive Director is Dr. Joseph H. Clapper.

The Mission of the Pennsylvania Principals Association is to ensure a quality education for every child by comprehensively supporting the educational leaders of our schools.

The Vision of the Pennsylvania Principals Association is to be the best service organization of its kind in the United States.