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TO: News Editor/News Director

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State and National Education Leaders To Convene in State College

(Harrisburg, PA)—Elementary, middle level and secondary school principals, assistant principals, supervisors, school-related vendors and other education leaders will convene in State College, Pennsylvania, for the **LEAD21 Pennsylvania Principals Conference, October 10-12, 2021**, at The Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel. This is the 28th annual conference for the association, which is held statewide each October. This year's conference committee co-chairs are Dr. Nicholas Indeglio, Principal, Downingtown Area School District, and Robert Farina, Principal, Brandywine Heights Area School District.

“A Pennsylvania Principals Association signature event for principals and other educational leaders will take place on Sunday, October 10th through Tuesday, October 12th at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College. The LEAD21 conference promises to provide relevant professional development sessions for all levels of administrators. This year, we are truly fortunate to host Jimmy Casas and Dr. Joe Sanfelippo as our Keynote Speakers. 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 hold and provide this outstanding opportunity for principals and school leaders from around the state,” said Mr. Farina.

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During the 2.5-day conference, numerous vendors will be exhibiting their products for schools and classrooms in the Exhibit Hall (*Presidents Hall 1-4 on Monday, Oct. 11, 2021, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.*), and various small group sessions will be by education leaders from across the commonwealth as well as two Keynote Addresses by nationally recognized speakers. **On Sunday, October 10, Jimmy Casas will present “Live Your Excellence: Bring Your Best Self to School Every Day” from 2:30-4:00 p.m. during the First General Session (Deans Hall 1-2). On Monday, October 11, Dr. Joe Sanfelippo will present “Impact the Narrative” from 1:00-2:30 p.m. at the Second General Session (Deans Hall 1-2).**

Several of the awards to be presented at the conference include the **National Distinguished Principal to Judith A. Castrogiovanni; State Principal of the Year to Dr. Harrison Bailey III; Outstanding Assistant Principal to Daniel C. Smith; and Robert E. Lavelly Assistant Principal of the Year to Kimberly Fitzgerald.** In addition, the PA Principals Association is proud to present its **2021 Educational Excellence Award to Matthew Stem, Assistant Executive Director for Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 and former Deputy Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.** These awards and other recognitions will be presented during **an Awards Dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2021.**

“Now, more than ever, the increasing demands on school leaders from across Pennsylvania are creating a desperate need for quality professional development programs. The LEAD21 Conference is the premier event in our commonwealth that is specifically geared toward addressing the abundance of needs placed on the shoulders of principals and other district leaders. In addition to providing access to opportunities for growth in a variety of areas, this conference also allows these school leaders to learn from others in their field, knowing that they can relate to the increasingly exclusive experience of being a principal in the 21st century,” shared Dr. Jonathan G. Ross, Principal of Lionville Middle School in the Downingtown Area School District and President of the PA Principals Association.

As part of its continuing community service and outreach efforts, the PA Principals Association has been encouraging conference participants to donate online and are also collecting monetary donations prior to its **ninth annual Diamond Sponsors’ Social** (Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021) 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

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local school districts in the 2021-2022 school year: Bald Eagle Area, Bellefonte Area, Cen Clear, Clearfield Area, Moshannon Valley, Penns Valley Area, Philipsburg-Osceola, Soaring Heights School, State College Area, West Branch and Young Scholars School. Visit this link for more information on this program:

<https://www.ymcaofcentrecounty.org/programs/youth-development/feeding-our-children/> The Diamond Sponsors' Social is held to acknowledge **PA Principals Association Diamond Level Sponsors: Horace Mann Companies, Kades-Margolis Corporation, Lifetouch National School Studios and Lincoln Investment Planning, LLC.**

“I’m excited to welcome the members of the PA Principals Association to State College for our Annual LEAD conference! We have an amazing line up of speakers, breakout sessions and professional development opportunities that will provide a great experience for attendees,” said Dr. Eric C. Eshbach, Incoming Executive Director, PA Principals Association.

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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 before 10/8/2021 or (717) 372-2257 or sherit3728@yahoo.com after 10/8/2021.

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 3,500 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 2020-2022 President is Dr. Jonathan G. Ross, a middle school principal in the Downingtown Area School District.
- The PA Principals Association’s Executive Director is Dr. Eric C. Eshbach.
- The PA Principals Association Assistant Executive Director is Dr. Michael S. Snell.

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.

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