

NAPOMLE NEWS

National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education

AMLE

Thank you for joining us at the 2018 AMLE conference in Orlando!

Initiation of new president, Gary Senn, with past president, Kim Winter.



New president-elect, Hilary Dack.



Save the date

#AMLE19

Nashville November 7-9



Call for Awards

Please consider nominating a colleague and/or program for recognition at the upcoming 2019 AMLE conference. NAPOMLE has five awards that recognize the outstanding contribution made to middle level education.

Awards seeking nominations:

- *Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Program*
- *Outstanding Professor of Middle Level Education*
- *Outstanding Middle Level Teacher Education Candidate*
- *Honorary Professor Emeritus Award*
- *Outstanding CMLA Chapter*

The criteria for each award can be found at <https://www.napomle.com/awards>.

Please send nominations and address questions to **Leah Kahn, llkahn@sfasu.edu**

Call for Best Practice Sessions

Please be on the lookout for the call for AMLE 2019 best practice sessions to be sent out in early March. The due date for these proposals will be **April 25th, 2019**.

Membership Reminders

If you would like to become a member or need to update your membership dues please find the membership form and contact **Michelle Williams**

williamsdm@sfasu.edu

<https://www.napomle.com/membership>

NAPOMLE Presidential Ponderings (P²)

A letter from the president

I am honored to begin my role as President of the National Association of Professors of Middle Level Education. I have enjoyed the comradery and networking offered through this organization. I had opportunity to be involved in leadership with South Carolina POMLE and South Carolina AMLE. When there were opportunities to be involved with NAPOMLE, I was happy to give back to an organization that supported higher education faculty working with middle level education.

I started down this path of president of NAPOMLE just over two years ago when I became president-elect. When I was considering this opportunity, there was one main reason that encouraged me to pursue the position. I was impressed with the person who was president elect at the time and was transitioning into the position of president. It was because of the work that Kim Winter was doing with NAPOMLE that prompted me to proceed in this direction. I knew that the organization would be moving in a positive way with her leadership, and I looked forward to riding on her coattails. So, to begin my initial presidential ponderings, I want to thank Kim Winter for her service as president of our organization. I look forward to her continued support in her role as past president to continue making NAPOMLE the best that it can be.

I have been excited over the past number of years for the great strides that have been made in middle level education. I enjoyed how accolades were shared related to the work of the pioneers in this area. With all of the positive activity over the past several

decades, there have been two recent observations that raise some concern for me. The first area is more of my anecdotal observation without any tangible or collected evidence for support. In my sense that more middle schools are in name only and that there has been some movement back to a junior high school approach to middle grades education. The second area is the movement back to one certification area for middle level teachers. I think that it was a good idea to have two certification areas for middle level teachers, because this was a natural way to support integrated subject areas. However, I do understand the challenges of requiring two certification areas. In my mind and in thinking from administrator's point of view, requiring only one certification area is in the best interest of building the population of middle level teachers. I will say that in my heart, it seems like a step backward that I wish did not have to be so. I think that the one certification area is something that will stay with us. However, I think that we as individuals and an organization have the opportunity to influence the implementation of middle level philosophy in middle schools. I look forward to the opportunity to collaborate with you to make strides in taking back the middle.

I look forward to serving as your president and would be happy to "hear" from you. You may contact me at

SennG@usca.edu.

I am already looking forward to the next opportunity for us to gather at the AMLE conference in Nashville, TN, which will be November 7–9, 2019. I hope that you will be able to make plans to attend.