NASSP STAFF

AMANDA KARHUSE, NASSP
Amanda Karhuse has served as the director of advocacy for NASSP since 2006. She coordinates all federal policy and advocacy efforts for NASSP, which include lobbying congressional staff, monitoring legislation affecting school leaders, and participating in coalition-building activities with other national education organizations. Prior to joining NASSP, Karhuse was a senior writer and editor for the Women’s Congressional Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., and worked on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for former Congresswoman Karen L. Thurman of Florida. Karhuse has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA, and a master’s degree from the Elliott School of International Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

ZACH SCOTT, NASSP
Zach Scott is the senior manager of federal engagement and outreach for NASSP. He serves as NASSP’s lead lobbyist and advocates on behalf of the organization’s positions to a variety of external audiences. Scott also aids in policy development by monitoring legislation affecting middle level and high school leaders and developing policy positions based on federal legislation. Prior to joining NASSP, Scott worked for more than three years on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congressman Bill Huizenga of Michigan. Scott has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI.

GREG WAPLES, NASSP
Greg Waples is the senior manager of state engagement and outreach for NASSP. He manages grassroots advocacy efforts, coordinating with NASSP principals, educators, state associations, and partners. Prior to joining NASSP, Waples worked for more than three years as a campaign manager at the Center for American Progress focused on gun violence prevention issues. He also worked at the White House in the Obama administration and has several years of political campaign experience, including service as a regional field director on President Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign. Waples has a bachelor’s degree in history from Allegheny College in Meadville, PA.

NAESP STAFF

DANNY CARLSON, NAESP
Danny Carlson serves as NAESP’s assistant executive director of policy and advocacy. Prior to joining NAESP, Danny was a policy analyst for the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. In that role, he oversaw the education division’s K–12 human capital work, advancing policies to address principal challenges across the country. Carlson previously served as an education adviser to Senator Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, and was responsible for advancing her K–12 education agenda. In that capacity, he crafted policy provisions included in the Every Student Succeeds Act to improve principal and teacher recruitment and retention, address chronic absenteeism, and boost opportunities for STEM education.

NAESP AND LPI RESEARCH AGENDA PREVIEW

STEPHANIE LEVIN, LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE
Stephanie Levin is a member of Learning Policy Institute’s Equitable Resources and Access team, where she is working to translate research on school finance and resource allocation to inform practice and policy. She also conducts research to better understand inequities across schools and identify remedies to redress these inequities. Levin has over 10 years of experience as a mixed-methods researcher and project manager focusing on educational equity; school finance and budgeting; the impact of federal, state, and district policies on teacher effectiveness and student outcomes; and teacher and school leader professional learning opportunities. Most recently, she designed and led studies evaluating the implementation and impact of teacher professional learning opportunities. Prior to her work in education research, Levin was a consultant, policy analyst, and budget analyst addressing issues shaping the experiences of children and families in urban settings. Levin received a doctorate in education policy from the University of Pennsylvania’s Graduate School of Education, a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
KATHRYN BRADLEY, LEARNING POLICY INSTITUTE
Kathryn Bradley is a research and policy associate on Learning Policy Institute’s Deeper Learning team. Prior to joining LPI, Bradley worked as a researcher for Communities In Schools, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting students to achieve their academic, career, and personal goals. There, she utilized mixed methods to examine the supports, services, and outcomes associated with college and career readiness. Before embarking on her research career, Bradley taught fourth grade in her hometown of New Haven, CT, where she also designed and taught a social justice issues course for high school students. Bradley holds an master’s degree in public policy and a bachelor’s degree in history and Africana studies, both from The George Washington University. She also master’s degree in teaching from Sacred Heart University.

NASSP ADVOCACY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

USING SOCIAL MEDIA TO INFLUENCE POLICYMAKERS

COLLIN BERGLUND, RATIONAL 360
Collin Berglund works at the intersection of communications, marketing, and digital strategy for Rational 360, finding new ways for clients to get measurable change-driving results. In 2014, Berglund worked for then-Treasurer Gina Raimondo as her digital director and press secretary during her winning campaign for governor, where he led the campaign’s content strategy, online advertising, and award-winning online fundraising program, among other responsibilities. Berglund earned his undergraduate degree in journalism and government and politics from the University of Maryland, and an MBA from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.

CARRIE JACKSON, NORTHWEST HIGH SCHOOL
Carrie Jackson serves students as principal of Northwest High School in Northwest Independent School District (ISD) in Justin, TX. She spent the past 12 years as a middle level principal in Keller ISD and was a vice principal in Irving ISD at both the middle and high school levels. Actively involved with NASSP and TASSP for many years, Jackson is a 2013 Digital Principal of the Year and has participated in a number of national committees. She is in her eighth year as a TASSP officer, having served as assistant state coordinator, state coordinator, president-elect, president, and now immediate past president and state coordinator. At the 2018 National Principal Conference, she joined Bill Ziegler and Dwight Carter to co-present the closing keynote, “Unleash Your Superhero: Your students depend on you.”

BUILDING PERSONAL ADVOCACY NETWORKS IN YOUR STATE

SINGER CRAWFORD, PHONE2ACTION
Singer Crawford is a client success manager at Phone2Action, a digital grassroots advocacy platform. Before joining the Phone2Action team, Singer spent five years working in education policy and advocacy, most recently at 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now. Currently at Phone2Action, she helps nonprofit advocacy groups, trade associations, and public affairs firms use digital campaigns to connect constituents with their elected officials.

ROZ THOMPSON, ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
Roz Thompson joined the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) in June 2017 as the director of government relations and advocacy. She continues her work as a state instructional framework specialist for the Danielson Framework. Prior to joining AWSP, Thompson worked in the Tumwater School District, most recently as a curriculum supervisor and as the professional development coordinator. She also worked as a teacher-librarian at both the high school and elementary levels while serving as the legislative liaison for the Washington Library Media Association from 2007–12, and she taught high school English, math, and social studies. Thompson earned her undergraduate degree in history from Whitman College and her graduate degree from the University of Washington. She also has a principal certification from Seattle Pacific University.
DAN RICHARDS, GEORGETOWN MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL
Daniel Richards, was a 2011 Assistant Principal of the Year finalist and Massachusetts Assistant Principal of the Year, has been a teacher in the Newton Public School District (Newton, MA) and at the Jingshan School (Beijing). Richards has over 20 years of experience and is currently the principal of Georgetown Middle High School in Georgetown, MA. As a school leader, he has successfully created and implemented professional development focused around 21st-century learning, social and emotional learning, and coordinated school- and district-wide programs which recognize and celebrate the diversity of all faculty, staff, and students. For the past seven years, Richards has served as the NASSP state coordinator for Massachusetts. In that role, he coordinates grassroots advocacy to elected officials, encouraging them to support policy that benefits principals, educators, schools, and students. Richards’ education includes a master’s degree in education leadership from Salem University in Salem, MA, and a master’s degree in negotiation and conflict resolution from Cambridge College in Cambridge, MA.

EMPOWERING THE VOICE OF STUDENTS IN ADVOCACY
WILL PARKER, OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS/OKLAHOMA MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATOR ASSOCIATION
Will Parker serves as executive director of Oklahoma’s Association of Secondary Principals and Oklahoma’s Middle Level Educator Association. He is the former principal of Skiatook High School, near Tulsa, OK. An Oklahoma educator since 1993, he was named Broken Arrow Public School’s South Intermediate High School Teacher of the Year in 1998. He became an assistant principal in 2004 and was named the Oklahoma Assistant Principal of the Year by NASSP in 2012. As principal of a Title I school, his school’s innovative approaches to collaboration, remediation, and mentoring resulted in marked improvements in student performance. Parker earned his bachelor’s degree in English education from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK, and his master’s degree in education leadership from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK.

Chris LeGrande is principal at Guthrie High School in Guthrie, OK. He is completing his seventh year as principal and 13th year as an administrator. LeGrande serves as the NASSP state coordinator for Oklahoma, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts for the state. He is also currently serving as president of the Oklahoma Association of Secondary School Principals (OASSP) and previously served as OASSP president from 2014–15. Other roles and accomplishments include serving as vice chair for the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration (CCOSA) Executive Committee and presenting at several CCOSA Aspiring Principals and New Principals Assistance Workshops. LeGrande has been an educator for 28 years and in 2003 was selected as one of 12 finalists for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

ALISON MALEY, ILLINOIS PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION
Alison Maley currently serves as government and public relations director for the Illinois Principals Association (IPA), a statewide professional organization representing over 5,200 Illinois school leaders. Prior to her work at the IPA, Maley served as a development director at Eastern Illinois University and legislative aide to two members of the Illinois House of Representatives. She earned both her bachelor’s degree in political science with a minor in speech communication and her master’s degree in political science from Eastern Illinois University.
SYDNEY NEAL, SAINT MARY’S RYKEN HIGH SCHOOL
Sydney Neal is a junior at Saint Mary’s Ryken High School in Saint Mary’s County, MD. She also serves as a high school member on the NASSP Student Leadership Advisory Committee. She is the vice president of the Maryland Association of Student Councils and promotes student advocacy and leadership training for thousands of students across the state. She is principal cellist, plays on her school’s soccer team, is an active member of her school’s National Honor Society and student government association, and is a founding member of her school’s Black Student Union. Neal values service and teaching and works to exemplify those values.

EDUCATION POLICY CROSSFIRE DEBATE

MODERATOR: DENISE FORTE, THE EDUCATION TRUST
Denise Forte is the senior vice president for partnership and engagement at The Education Trust. With more than two decades of experience in the federal legislative and executive branches advancing progressive education and family policy, Forte brings strategic leadership to the organization’s efforts to engage policymakers and diverse coalitions of advocates in demanding and securing equity-advancing policy change at the national and state levels. Prior to The Education Trust, Forte was a senior fellow and director of public affairs for The Century Foundation, a progressive think tank. She also spent 20 years in progressively senior congressional staff roles, most recently as the staff director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce [Minority]. Forte has a bachelor’s degree in computer science from Duke University and a master’s degree in women’s studies from The George Washington University.

RICK HESS, AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE
Frederick M. Hess is a resident scholar and the director of education policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), where he works on K–12 and higher education issues. He is the author of Education Week’s popular blog “Rick Hess Straight Up” and is a regular contributor to Forbes and The Hill. Since 2001, he has served as executive editor of Education Next. Before joining AEI, Dr. Hess was a high school social studies teacher. He teaches or has taught at the University of Virginia, the University of Pennsylvania, Georgetown University, Rice University, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University. As an educator, political scientist, and author, Dr. Hess is often published in scholarly outlets, such as American Politics Quarterly, Harvard Education Review, Social Science Quarterly, Teachers College Record, and Urban Affairs Review. Dr. Hess has an master’s degree and a doctorate in government, in addition to a MEd in teaching and curriculum, from Harvard University. He also has a bachelor’s degree in political science from Brandeis University.

DEBORAH DELISLE, ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENT EDUCATION
Deborah S. Delisle is the president and CEO of the Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed), a Washington, D.C.-based national policy and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring that all students, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, graduate from high school well-prepared for success in college, work, and citizenship. Delisle’s career in education spans over 40 years. Prior to her current position with All4Ed, Delisle served as executive director and CEO of ASCD, a professional community of more than 120,000 educational professionals across the world. She has also served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education. During her federal tenure from 2012–2015 she played a pivotal role in policy and management issues affecting pre-kindergarten, elementary and secondary education, and oversaw 86 programs with a portfolio of nearly $26 billion.