

**MASSACHUSETTS SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS= ASSOCIATION**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**TWO MASSACHUSETTS PRINCIPALS  
RECEIVE NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

Franklin, MA, June 26, 2008 B Two Massachusetts educators have been selected for national recognition as Principals of the Year by Met Life and the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) it was announced. They are:

- § Mary Jo Nawrocki, Principal, Assabet Valley Regional Technical High School, Marlborough
- § Cheryl A. Forster-Cahill, Principal, Ipswich Middle School, Ipswich

The program annually recognizes secondary school leaders who demonstrate exemplary skills in educational leadership, resolving complex problems, providing continued professional growth for self and others, and service to their community. The two educators, along with their colleague, Stephen F. Dexter, of Westwood H.S., the Assistant Principal of the Year, will be recognized at the Summer Institute of the Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association in Falmouth this summer.

In addition, they will attend a three day Principals= Institute in Washington, D.C. where they will have an opportunity to share their experience and expertise with school administrators from throughout the country. Both principals are also candidates for National Principal of the Year.

A thirty year veteran of the Assabet School District, Ms. Nawrocki has served as a teacher, coach, curriculum director and, since 2003, as principal. She took over a school with declining MCAS scores and poor morale among faculty and students and quickly set

about leading a complete turnaround. Before the start of the school year the curriculum was rewritten, measurement rubrics and been designed, action teams had been developed and a new mission and vision for the school had been created.

With her leadership a school system heading into under-achieving has scored remarkably well on EQA visits has elevated AP academics and is now recognized statewide and nationally for its technical achievements. Active in many community organizations outside of school, Ms. Nawrocki was recognized in 1998 as the Volunteer of the Year in Marlborough.

Ms. Forster-Cahill was named principal at Ipswich Middle School in August, 1995 having served in the Ipswich public school system since 1988. Her prior positions included acting assistant principal of Ipswich High School; technology director for all schools and coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Children's program.

Assuming the principalship just prior to the start of the school year in 1995, Ms. Forster-Cahill moved quickly to put her own mark on the manner in which the school was organized with an emphasis on putting the children first. Subsequently, she built a collaborative team approach to teaching.

The construction of a new school building provided an opportunity to physically construct a school to enhance the team approach for faculty, students and administrators. Recently, Ms. Forster-Cahill led a revision to the Middle School that resulted in a new schedule, more student assistance time, introduction of professional learning communities and a program whereby all students are involved in service.

Ms. Forster-Cahill is recognized by her faculty and administrative colleagues, Richard Korb, Ipswich Superintendent, and the School Committee for her ability to generate collaborative leadership and develop middle school curricula.

The Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators' Association represents the interests of 1,100 principals and assistant principals in high schools and middle schools

throughout the Commonwealth.

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