



## *August Newsletter 2011*

*For many of us school is starting Monday. Yikes. We hope you are refreshed and ready to begin a successful semester. I have three things to share. First is an interview with our new executive director, Will Weidelich. Second, we are being asked to give input to the most recent draft of the AMLE professional standards. Finally, the NaPOMLE website has its first e-book. This was the brainchild of Betty Dore and it a summary of the book is provided. I hope you have a great semester and I hope to see you in November.*

### **Part I: An Interview**

In July I was able to interview our next Executive Director, Will Weidelich – I have attached an mp4 of the conversation in this email. His commitment and direction for AMLE is in line with our efforts to work together to advocate for middle level education. The following is a summary of the conversation.

I first asked him to share his initial thoughts. He commented on how impressed he is with the passion and dedication of everyone associated with the organization. He then shared his commitment to supporting the federal and state attention to increasing student achievement and readiness of middle school students for college and careers.

In our conversation he shared four views he sees as his role: 1) He believes people come first: people who work for the organization, presenters, speakers, and he hopes to find more ways to provide tools, staff, volunteers, teachers, administrators, and professors with ways to provide leadership and professional development; 2) he wants all of us to emphasize the mission and reintroduce This We Believe, the mission statement, and the components of successful middle schools to remind folks of our mission and attract new folks to our mission, 3) he wants to develop our vision of customer service while offering quality programs; 4) and finally he wants to brand middle level culture.

I asked Dr. Waidelich how can we help? He hopes we will continue to be passionate supporters. Research, document, show advantages, communicate to the public, parents and elected officials. He encourages us to advocate for common methods of success and help provide evidence of our own success. He asks us to help document and measure success and identify strategic partners and stakeholders to help us tell the story.

Finally he asked that if you have opportunity of comments and goals and how to work together email or phone him. He believes the more we share the better informed we will be.

***Part II: Getting Involved –***

The AMLE Professional Preparation Advisory Committee needs feedback from you. They are sharing a second draft of the AMLE Middle Level Teacher Preparation Standards. The draft is attached to this email. The following is an excerpt from the document.

“The AMLE Professional Preparation Advisory Committee requests commentary and recommendations regarding the second draft of the Association for Middle Level Education/National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education Middle Level Teacher Preparation Standards. The new standards will not go into effect until 2013. These are initial level standards that will be used for review of undergraduate middle level teacher preparation programs and graduate programs that lead to initial certification/licensure. Please note that the content of these standards cannot duplicate NCATE Unit Standards that apply to all teacher preparation programs (e.g., diversity or technology). The purpose of this posting is to request feedback for the NMSA Professional Preparation Advisory Board so that the standards can be further refined. Please send questions, comments and recommendations to Ken McEwin, AMLE Program Review Coordinator at [mcewinck@appstate.edu](mailto:mcewinck@appstate.edu). This review period ends October 31st.”

***Part III: Resources to share***

Finally, I am pleased to share a new e-book on the NaPOMLE website. Betty Dore is the editor of this and she provided us with some insight of it.

*“Keeping middle schools successful – a collection of 15 chapters by professors of middle level educators across the country. From strategies to provide the most satisfaction for teacher care and empathy to communication skills and collaboration among school and university personnel, this work is a confirmation of what it takes to have successful middle schools. The activities which involve young adolescents – service learning, cooperative learning, teaming, advisor/advisee, and field experiences – suggest many concrete practices which have been successfully implemented for middle level students. Finding successful strategies and methods for helping all students be successful readers is always a challenge.”*

“Even though we all have passions for different aspects of middle school education, ultimately it is the well-being of the middle school student and his/her success for which we are strongly united. This publication, when all is said and done, is exactly where we are all focused.”

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Ruppert, NaPOMLE president



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