

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ken Page, VPA Executive Director at kpage@vpaonline.org, 802-229-0547

The Vermont Principals' Association: 2017-18 Principals of the Year

MONTPELIER - The Vermont Principals' Association will honor eight distinguished educational leaders at the VPA Leadership Academy awards banquet on Wednesday, August 2nd at Killington's Grand Hotel. Nominated by their peers and from the public at large, each of the principals listed below was selected recently by a committee of the VPA Executive Council and past award winners for outstanding building and educational leadership.

- **Steven Perrin**, Principal of Brattleboro High School, is the winner of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, High School Principal of the Year Award;
- **Lisa Atwood and Amy Rex**, Co-Principals of Harwood Union School in Duxbury, are the recipient of the Robert F. Pierce Vermont Secondary Principals of the Year Award;
- **Jay Hartman**, Assistant Principal at Missisquoi Valley Union High School in Swanton, is the recipient of the NASSP Assistant Principal of the Year Award;
- **Bill Hammond** of the Marion Cross School in Norwich, will receive the National Distinguished Principal Award from the National Association of Elementary Schools Principals;
- **Shawn Gonyaw**, Principal of Barnet Elementary School is the recipient of the NASSP and John Winton Middle Level Principal of the Year;
- **Duane Pierson**, Principal of Moretown Elementary School will receive the Henry R. Giaguque Vermont Elementary Principal of the Year Award;
- **Scott Farr**, Director and Superintendent of River Valley Technical Center in Springfield has been selected by the Regional Tech Center Directors and the VPA Executive Council as the Tech Director of the Year

Some of these candidates' names will be entered into national competition for national principals of the year while others will be honored with statewide leadership awards.

The selection criteria mirrored the Wallace Foundation's criteria for effective school leaders asking nominators to comment about how the person has-- **shaped a vision of academic success for all students, created a climate hospitable for education, cultivated leadership in others, improved instruction and managed people, data and processes to foster school improvement.** In addition, the selection committee sought specific examples about how has the leader has *created and maintained a healthy school culture, broadened and enriched school curriculum, provided more and better learning time during the school year and summer, ended disparities in learning opportunities created by tracking and ability grouping, used a variety of assessments designed to respond to student needs, reassessed student discipline policies, supported teachers as professionals, provided adequate resources for safe and well-maintained school environments, addressed key health issues; built on the strengths of language minority students and correctly identified their needs; and expanded access to libraries and the internet, while using technology wisely.*

The 2017 VPA Leadership Academy will feature keynote speaker Jimmy Casas, Senior Fellow at the International Center for Leadership in Education speaking on "Moving Beyond the Status Quo." There will also be seven learning strands for school leaders on topics such as Building Capacity, Technology, Literacy for Leaders, Resilient Schools, Power Dynamics. Proficiency-Based Learning and Developing District Leadership, Over 250 school leaders will gather for the three-day event in Killington, August 1-2-3. For details and to register, go to www.vpaonline.org or call the VPA office at 802-229-0547.

The Vermont Principals' Association provides professional development, mentoring, and advocacy for school building leaders across Vermont's public schools. The VPA also coordinates and administers statewide academic competitions and post-season athletics for high school students. To learn more about VPA, visit www.vpaonline.org.

The fifteen-member VPA Executive Council assisted by the 2016-17 Principals of the Year and the VPA Staff chose this year's award winners.

