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Michele Zee Recognized in DC as South Carolina Assistant Principal of the Year
NASSP Forum included Capitol Hill day, awards gala keynoted by Sec. Duncan

Michele Zee, assistant principal at Pleasant Hill Middle School, traveled to Washington, DC last week to be honored as the South Carolina Assistant Principal of the Year as part of the NASSP/Virco National and State Assistant Principals of the Year Program.

During her time in DC, Zee spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with local legislators to discuss education legislation and its impact on schools including middle school reform and private school vouchers.

The Assistant Principals Forum also featured a black-tie awards gala, highlighted by a keynote address from US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

“There are no great schools without great teams, without great principals, and without great assistant principals,” Duncan said. “As a parent, thank you so much. If we could find ways to clone you guys, clone your expertise...we have a chance to take education to an entirely different level in this country.”

Each assistant principal was invited on stage to receive their award and be formally recognized for their achievements.

As part of the three-day forum, Zee also participated in numerous professional development opportunities led by NASSP staff. During the sessions, the assistant principals of the year were able to share and receive best practices with assistant principals from around the nation.

This event occurred during National Assistant Principals Week, which was formally declared by a Senate Resolution to be March 31-April 4, 2014. During the week, NASSP and others honored and recognized the contributions of assistant principals to the success of students in schools across the United States.
Each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity selected one assistant principal to represent their state. From these state winners, three finalists were named as contenders for the National Assistant Principal of the Year award in January.

Courtney Voshell of Dover (DE) High School was then named the National Assistant Principal of the Year in February.

The NASSP/Virco Assistant Principal of the Year receives a $5,000 grant, while the two finalists each receive a grant for $1,500. The grants can be used for personal professional development or for a school improvement project.

For more information about the NASSP/Virco National Assistant Principal of the Year Program and winners, visit www.nassp.org/apoy

About NASSP
The National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) is the leading organization of and national voice for middle level and high school principals, assistant principals, and all school leaders from across the United States and more than 36 countries around the world. The association connects and engages school leaders through advocacy, research, education, and student programs. NASSP advocates on behalf of all school leaders to ensure the success of each student and strengthens school leadership practices through the design and delivery of high quality professional learning experiences. Reflecting its long-standing commitment to student leadership development, NASSP administers the National Honor Society, National Junior Honor Society, National Elementary Honor Society, and National Association of Student Councils.

About Virco Inc.
As America’s leading manufacturer and supplier of furniture and equipment for K-12 schools, Virco is proud to support NASSP. Virco’s great classroom furniture selection includes best-selling ZUMA(r) models, traditional chairs and desks, popular TEXT(r), Metaphor(r) and Telos(r) items, and all-new Parameter(r) desks and workstations for teachers and administrators. In 2005, ZUMA and ZUMAfrd(tm) became the first classroom furniture products to earn GREENGUARD(r) Children & Schools certification; now, Virco has hundreds of Greenguard-certified products. Virco offers classroom furniture industry's only Take-Back Program that helps schools recycle their out-of-service furniture. you’re faced with a major FF&E purchasing project, check out Virco’s stress-free PlanSCAPE(r) service! For more information on Virco Inc., visit www.virco.com.