AASA Scholarships Awarded to Six Top Graduate Students

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ARLINGTON, Va. - Six of the nation's outstanding graduate students in educational administration have been selected by the American Association of School Administrators to receive $2,000 scholarships during AASA’s 2008 National Conference on Education in Tampa, Fla., Feb. 14-17.

AASA, sponsor of the yearly scholarship awards, selects recipients on the basis of their experience and excellence in school administration, personal essays about their qualifications, and recommendations from university faculty, including the dean of the graduate school in which they are enrolled.

Each recipient also receives complimentary registration to AASA's national conference. Each scholarship is named in honor of a former AASA executive director.

The 2008 scholarship recipients, in alphabetical order, are:

Patricia B. Charles, of Westbrook, Conn., winner of the Paul B. Salmon Award. She is pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership at Central Connecticut State University. She is in her second year as superintendent of the Westbrook Public Schools and earlier served as assistant superintendent in Plainville, Conn., and principal of two schools in Middletown, Conn., over 12 years. She is a past board member of the Connecticut Association of Schools.

For her doctoral dissertation, Charles is studying effects of leadership style in a Connecticut school.

She holds a master’s degree from the University of Hartford and a bachelor’s degree from Central Connecticut State University.

John F. Doherty, of Tewksbury, Mass., winner of the Forrest E. Connor Award. He is working toward an Ed.D. at Seton Hall University. Doherty is in his third year as assistant superintendent in Reading, Mass., where he earlier worked as a biology teacher, science department chair and middle school principal.

Doherty holds a master's degree in curriculum and instruction and a bachelor’s degree from University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

Catherine L. McNamara, of Oceanside, Calif., winner of the S.D. Shankland Award. She is seeking a doctoral degree in educational leadership from a joint program at University of California, San Diego and California State, San Marcos. McNamara is in her fourth year as assistant superintendent for instructional services in Solano Beach, Calif. Previously she served as principal of three schools in Riverside and San Diego.
She earned a master’s degree in educational administration and a bachelor’s degree from University of California, Riverside.

**Robert J. Glass**, of Bloomfield Hills, Mich., winner of the Worth McClure Award. He is completing a Ph.D. in educational leadership at Oakland University in Rochester Hills, Mich. Glass is in his third year as executive director of instruction in Birmingham, Mich. He previously worked as a principal of three elementary schools in Vestaburg, Suttons Bay and Birmingham, all in Michigan.

Glass holds M.A. degrees from Wayne State University and Central Michigan University and a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University.

**Kenneth R. Whitt**, of Bryan, Texas, winner of the Finis Engleman Award, is pursuing a doctorate in educational administration at Texas A&M University. Whitt is in his second year as the curriculum director in Marlin, Texas. He previously served as high school assistant principal in Marlin. He earlier spent five years as a high school teacher and administrative department head in Fort Bend ISD in Sugar Land, Texas. He served both as an administrative and superintendent intern before making the decision to move closer to Texas A&M University and thus begin his career in Marlin.

He will research superintendent mentoring for his doctoral dissertation.

He holds two master's degrees and a bachelor's degree from University of Houston, Clear Lake.

**Denise M. Wickham**, of Ripon, Calif., winner of the Richard D. Miller Award. She is working toward a doctorate in educational administration at University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif. Wickham is in her second year as director of curriculum and instruction in Ceres, Calif. She previously was supervisor of assessments in Ceres and elementary school principal in Riverbank, Calif.

Wickham holds a master’s degree from University of LaVerne and a bachelor’s degree from California State University, Stanislaus.

**About AASA**

AASA ([http://www.aasa.org/](http://www.aasa.org/)), founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA’s major focus is standing up for public education.