AASA Installs President and President-Elect for 2008-2009

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ARLINGTON, Va. – Randall Collins, superintendent of schools in Waterford, Conn., and Mark Bielang, superintendent of schools in Paw Paw, Mich., were installed today as the American Association of School Administrators’ president and president-elect, respectively, for 2008-09. Collins succeeds Sarah Jerome, superintendent in Arlington Heights, Ill., as the association’s president.

Collins and Bielang were officially sworn in today at an installation ceremony held in conjunction with AASA’s summer governance meetings in St. Louis, Mo.

Collins will serve as president of the national association over the next year. He has served as superintendent in Waterford since 1991. Previously, he was superintendent in Easthampton, Mass., and Wiscasset, Maine. He has been a member of AASA since 1981 and served on the AASA Executive Committee from 2004 to 2006. In addition, he served as president of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents, as co-president of the New England Association of School Superintendents, and as a national board member of the National Center for Educational Research and Technology. In 2005, he was selected by Connecticut Governor Rell to be an inaugural inductee into the Connecticut Veteran’s Hall of Fame. He was named Connecticut Superintendent of the Year in 2002 and recipient of AASA’s Effie Jones Humanitarian Award in 2008.

Collins received a bachelor’s degree from Gordon College, where he was named Alumnus of the Year in 2001, a master’s degree from the University of Maine and a doctorate from Boston University.

“We are fortunate to have a leader like Randy Collins, who is exceptionally well suited to represent the education leaders of America and to advocate on behalf of children nationwide as president of AASA,” said AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech. “Randy’s passion for education, his proven leadership skills, and his professional experience as a school system leader will be a tremendous asset to AASA as we work to revitalize the association’s mission and strengthen its programs and services.”

“AASA is an organization that I have depended on for 27 years,” said Collins. “To be able to make a difference in children’s lives and serve a profession I love as AASA president is humbling. Ultimately, the mission of school system leaders, and AASA, is to ensure that the dreams of all of our children can be realized. I look forward to joining with the leadership and the membership of AASA to help make all our children’s dreams come true by supporting and advancing high-quality public education nationwide.”

Bielang has served as superintendent in Paw Paw since 1995. Previously, he was principal of Ionia (Mich.) High School. He has been a member of AASA for 13 years and has served on the AASA
Executive Committee and the AASA Governing Board.

Bielang served as the 2005-06 president and as an executive board member of the Michigan Association of School Administrators; as a member of the AASA Beliefs and Positions Subcommittee and the AASA Code of Ethics Subcommittee; and as past president of the Ionia Rotary Club. He currently serves as president of the Eastern Van Buren County (Mich.) Habitat for Humanity, on the board of directors of the Paw Paw Area Kiwanis Club, and as a member of the advisory council of the Bronson/Lakeview Hospital in Paw Paw.

**About AASA**

The American Association of School Administrators, 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. For more information, please visit [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org).

Note: [Download a photo of Randy Collins](#).