



## SHARING PROVEN PRACTICES IN EDUCATION

Message from MSA President Henry G. Cram, Ed.D

Fortunately, like most things that have survived for more than a century, the school accreditation process has evolved.

When it was first undertaken in the late 19th century, the accreditation process was an inspection of educational inputs. Early accreditation models presumed that if a school was resourced, organized and following standard practices, it must be providing quality education.

In the 20th century, data about educational inputs and student performance were gathered and analyzed to inform improvement plans that would serve as the basis for making changes.

Today, the accreditation process encourages schools to develop quality educational programs and share results with peers through action research and proven practice.

At MSA, we encourage schools to design solutions to the educational challenges they face, share the results of that research with the larger educational community and document exemplary programs. We believe that through this collaborative process, we will help schools to provide high quality education for every student.

To facilitate this, we recently launched a Best Practices Resource Library where you will find action research conducted by MSA member schools, descriptions of exemplary programs and related educational resources.

MSA's new strategic plan, Taking Accreditation to the Next Level, includes a goal to be a "recognized educational resource." The [Best Practices Resource Library](#) is one way that we are realizing that ambition.

Middle States' Sustaining Excellence protocol and Programs of Distinction encourage member schools not only to continuously improve but to collaborate internally and with other schools to develop and then share proven practices.

School improvement is the process of planning, implementing, evaluating and improving on our previous best. The power of the process, however, is not in the efforts of individual schools and educators, but in the collective passion and commitment of all of us to find out what is best for every student.



Henry G. Cram, Ed.D

## LISA MARIE MCCAULEY, ED.D., NAMED AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF MSA-CESS

Lisa Marie McCauley, Ed.D., CPA, has been selected as the new President of the Middle States Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools effective July 1, 2019.

Dr. McCauley currently serves as Chief Operating Officer for the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and as Senior Vice President of Finance for Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

"Dr. McCauley's experience and expertise, along with her passion for education, make her ideally suited to lead the organization as it moves

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### Also In This Issue:

● [Announcing the Launch of Our Best Practices Resource Library](#)

● [Middle States Celebrates Read Across America Day](#)

● [Middle States President Honored for Service to International Schools](#)

● [Q&A With MSA Commissioner Sister Maureen McDermott](#)

# LISA MARIE MCCAULEY, ED.D., NAMED AS NEXT PRESIDENT OF MSA-CSSS (CONTINUED)

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forward under a newly adopted strategic plan and continues its mission of assisting schools worldwide in achieving excellence,” said Elementary Commission Chair Louis P. DeAngelo, Ed.D., who led the search committee.



Dr. McCauley succeeds Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., who is retiring on June 30, 2019.

As part of the nine-month selection process, the search committee received and reviewed resumes from more than 50 candidates around the world and conducted at least three rounds of interviews.

“Among an incredibly competitive talent pool, Dr. McCauley stood out for her deep knowledge of Middle States, her strong leadership abilities and her vision for ensuring the ongoing success of the organization for years to come,” said DeAngelo.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. McCauley and welcoming her into her new role.

## MIDDLE STATES LAUNCHES BEST PRACTICES RESOURCE LIBRARY

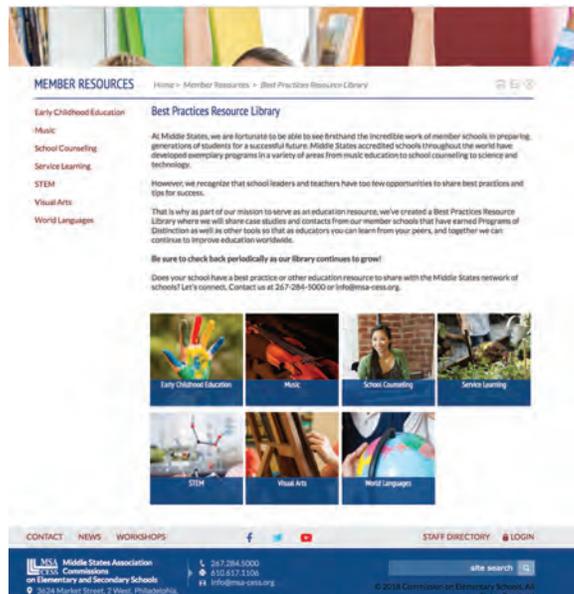
Middle States accredited schools throughout the world have developed exemplary programs in a variety of areas from music education to school counseling to science and technology.

We are fortunate to be able to see firsthand the incredible work of member schools in preparing generations of students for a successful future.

Yet we recognize that school leaders and teachers have too few opportunities to share best practices and tips for success.

That is why as part of our mission to serve as an education resource, we've created a

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We are pleased to announce that we are presenting at the [2019 National School Boards Association Conference](#), taking place in our hometown of Philadelphia, later this month.

If you're attending the conference, be sure to check out **Achieving Excellence By Design: How to Create an Inclusive and Unified Strategic Plan for Your District through Accreditation.**

Saturday, March 30, 2019  
3:45 p.m. - 5 p.m.



Description:

Rather than use costly strategic planning consultants, learn how to lead your school leaders, faculty, students, and families through an inclusive accreditation process to create a unified strategic plan for improving performance across your district. Learn directly from superintendents who have used this process to energize their districts, inspire change, advance student achievement and meet budgetary goals. This session is open to anyone and geared toward Board Members who are looking for ways to effectively and efficiently achieve their district visions.

Presenters:

- Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., President of Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
- Michael Kuchar, Ph.D, Former Superintendent of the Bergenfield School District, past-president of New Jersey Association of School Administrators
- Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D., Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- Janicka Newbill, M.Ed., Director of Special Projects at The School District of Philadelphia

## MIDDLE STATES CELEBRATES READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY



In celebration of Read Across America Day, March 2, Middle States employees visited St. Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia, Pa. to share their favorite books.

The team visited six classrooms to read a variety of Dr. Seuss books including Green Eggs and Ham and The Lorax.

Read Across America Day, which is sponsored by the National Education Association, celebrates the joy and importance of reading. It also coincides with Dr. Seuss's birthday.

St. Peter the Apostle School serves 200 students in grades kindergarten through 8th. Founded by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in 1848, St. Peter is accredited by Middle States.

Thank you to Sister Rosalia Federici, principal of St. Peter the Apostle School, along with the students, teachers and staff for their warm welcome.



## MSA-CESS PRESIDENT HENRY G. CRAM, ED.D., HONORED FOR YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

Congratulations to MSA-CESS President Henry G. Cram, Ed.D., for being this year's recipient of the Walid Abushakra Award for Impact on International Education.

Presented annually by Esol Education, a network of international schools, the award is given to distinguished heads of school, representatives of the U.S. Department of State and other leaders in international education. The Walid Abushakra Award is named for the chairman and superintendent of Esol Education.

"Dr. Cram embodies the values we ascribe to at Esol Education, including inclusivity and cultural awareness, and has dedicated his career to improving student outcomes in the U.S. and throughout the world," said Abushakra. "We are grateful for his support of Esol Education in our pursuit of continuous growth and improvement."

In addition, Esol Education will contribute \$5,000 to Brookdale Community College, in Lincroft, N.J., where Cram is a member of the Board of Trustees. The funds will be used to establish a scholarship for students interested in working in the field of international education.

## Q & A WITH MIDDLE STATES COMMISSIONER SISTER MAUREEN LAWRENCE MCDERMOTT



*Sister Maureen Lawrence McDermott, I.H.M., Ph.D, is Chief Academic Officer and Superintendent of Secondary Schools at the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Schools. Sister Maureen has more than 30 years of experience in Catholic education, having served as teacher, principal and superintendent. She is a professional member of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) and the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education (CACE). She earned her undergraduate degree from Immaculata University and attended West Chester University for her master's degree. Sister Maureen went on to earn her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Fordham University.*

**Q. How did you become involved with Middle States?**

A. I have served in secondary and elementary education for more than 30 years. Each school where I've worked has been accredited by Middle States. Through the years, as Middle States has grown and evolved, protocols have also developed to respond to the self-study process and need for strategic planning and goal setting. I've been impressed by that.

**Q. What do you see as one of the main benefits of Middle States accreditation?**

A. The process allows schools to review in a very intentional way critical areas such as governance, health and safety and academic programs. Surveys are used to measure current effectiveness while charting a plan for the future. I think that guiding schools through this process and coming out on the other side with a strategic plan is a key benefit of working with Middle States.

**Q. How did you get your start in education?**

A. I became enthralled with education from the age of 6, when I was in the first grade and received a box of letters and numbers to learn from. I knew very early on that I wanted to spend my life engaged in the learning process and inspiring others to feel the transformative power a good education can provide.

**Q. What do you enjoy most about working in education?**

A. School communities are sacred places for teaching and learning. Having the privilege of working on behalf of schools is a sacred trust. I appreciate that responsibility and take it very seriously.

**Q. What is your favorite movie of all time?**

A. Almost anything British. I enjoyed *The Queen*, the 2006 film with Helen Mirren about the passing of Princess Diana, and the classic 1962 film with Peter O'Toole, *Lawrence of Arabia*.

## MIDDLE STATES LAUNCHES BEST PRACTICES RESOURCE LIBRARY (CONTINUED)

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**Best Practices Resource Library** where we will share case studies and contacts from our member schools that have earned Programs of Distinction as well as other tools so that as educators you can learn from your peers.

We invite our member schools to take a look at our Best Practices Resource Library and then talk with one another and share ideas.

Together we can continue to improve education worldwide.

Does your school have a best practice or other education resource to share with the Middle States network of schools? Let's connect. Contact us at 267.284.5000 or [info@msa-cess.org](mailto:info@msa-cess.org).



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