



**2024-2025 Annual Report**  
**MIDDLE LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL**  
*Submitted by Dr. Alicia Bowman, CAS Associate Executive Director*  
*Tiffany Caouette, Assistant Executive Director*

Middle Level Board Meetings

The Middle-Level Board of Control led by Tim Salem, principal of Scotts Ridge Middle School, met virtually this year for valuable discussion around topics of interest and concern to middle level members. The Board also provided consultation to CAS leadership on student programming and recognition. This group of leaders were instrumental in providing ideas, input and feedback to the Center for Leadership and Innovation.

NAESP and NASSP National Leadership Conference and Capitol Hill Day

The joint NAESP-NASSP National School Leaders Advocacy Conference was held in Washington, DC, in March 2025. An advocacy team from Connecticut attended meetings with Congressional leaders and their staffers. The Connecticut delegation included seven school leaders - Joseph Blake, Garrett Dukette, Andre Hauser, Donna Hayward, Mike Litke, Scott Nozik and Kristy Zaleta – and CAS staff members, Glenn Lungarini and Alicia Bowman.

Capitol Connections: A Networking Event for School Leaders and Lawmakers

The Capitol Connections event provided a unique opportunity for members to connect with legislators and fellow school leaders to discuss the pressing issues impacting K-12 education in Connecticut. It facilitated meaningful conversations between policymakers, CAS staff and principals, ensuring that the voices of those leading our schools are heard.

Professional Learning Opportunities

The Middle Level Board of Control regularly engaged in discussions about professional learning interests and needs, using the member feedback from surveys and other sources to drive decisions. Middle level board members also participated in the Center for Leadership and Innovation Planning Summit in April, which led to a strategic plan for professional development for the next year. Details on the professional development offerings are included in the [Center for Leadership and Innovation Annual Report](#).

Student Activities

The Middle Level Leadership Conference was held at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. Over 500 students, advisors and administrators were in attendance and gave very positive reviews at the end. Students and advisors participated in extensive leadership training, including anti-bullying activities, diversity awareness sessions, and community service initiatives to bring back to their schools. For more details, see the [CT Student Activities Conference Annual Report](#).

### 2024-2025 Middle Level Awards

The Connecticut Association of Schools staff were excited to present the following awards and recognitions:

- Middle School Principal of the Year: Dr. Damon Lewis, Ponus Ridge STEAM Academy, Norwalk
- Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year: Marco Tirillo, John Wallace Middle School, Newington
- William Cieslukowski Outstanding First-Year Principal: John Ramos, Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School in Bridgeport
- Middle School of the Year: Six to Six Interdistrict Magnet Middle School, Emma Balter, Principal