

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**MUSCATINE'S GARFIELD-FRANKLIN SCHOOL LEADER IS
IOWA ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR**

Vicki Connelly, principal of Garfield-Franklin Elementary School in Muscatine, has been named the 2009 Iowa Elementary Principal of the Year by School Administrators of Iowa.

"SAI is pleased to recognize Vicki Connelly for her exceptional educational leadership," said Dan Smith, the association's executive director. "Her leadership in working with students, staff and parents to create a successful learning community is outstanding. She maintains high expectations for all students and, as just one example of her contributions, has developed an after-school support program to further assist children with their learning," Smith said.

Connelly expressed, "The mission of Garfield-Franklin Elementary School is to provide a supportive environment that assures each child will reach his/her potential. Thank you to the School Administrators of Iowa for recognizing the efforts and dedication of the Garfield-Franklin team to this mission. This award honors me, the Garfield-Franklin teachers and staff, our students and families, and the Muscatine Community School District. I am so grateful for being chosen as the Iowa Elementary Principal of the Year."

Principal at Garfield-Franklin since 2007, Connelly was previously the administrator at Muscatine's Grant Elementary. She began her career as a fourth through sixth grade teacher at Delwood Elementary School in Delmar. Her education includes a bachelor's degree in elementary education/psychology from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, and a master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in educational leadership.

She was nominated by her peers, selected by a committee of Iowa elementary principals, and will be recognized at a governor's awards ceremony in May. The National Association of Elementary School Principals will also honor her as a National Distinguished Principal.

SAI, a statewide organization founded in 1987, represents more than 2000 Iowa educational administrators. SAI's mission is to support, encourage and develop Iowa's educational leaders and learners.