



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Marcus Belin Named First Black President of the Illinois Principals Association

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Principals Association is proud to announce Dr. Marcus Belin, principal of Huntley High School in Huntley, IL, as association President for the 2021-2022 school term. Dr. Belin also becomes the first Black president of the Illinois Principals Association.

During Dr. Belin’s term of office, the Illinois Principals Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary, culminating with the organization’s annual conference October 24-26 in Peoria, IL.

“For the past 50 years, the Illinois Principals Association has developed a legacy in the state to support school leaders,” said Dr. Belin. “As we enter a year to celebrate a Legacy of Leaders, I am excited to see the continued focus on furthering the organization's focus on diversity, advocacy, and leadership at the local and national levels. This organization has developed a system of support to develop school leaders and will continue to be an integral part of strengthening the pipeline for school leadership. I am humbled to serve as the president of this organization.”

Dr. Jason Leahy, Executive Director for the Illinois Principals Association, adds, “Dr. Marcus Belin is an exceptional, student focused school leader. He possesses a contagious passion for creating an organizational environment, both in his school and the IPA, where everyone is provided the support and encouragement they need to thrive. As the IPA celebrates its 50th Anniversary and our schools come out of the pandemic, the Association is fortunate to have Dr. Belin at the helm.”

Dr. Belin has most recently been recognized as one of three Digital Principals of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP). At Huntley High School, Belin has overseen three years of Huntley’s blended competency-based learning program for in-person and online learning to enable students to master competencies in core subject areas. The school has also used technology to engage students in social-emotional learning lessons in topics such as anxiety and mental health.

Dr. Belin has been a member of the Illinois Principals Association since 2013. During this time, he has served as State Legislative Chairperson, Kishwaukee Region Membership Chair, and Central Illinois Valley Region Membership Chair. He began his career in education in 2010 as a

fifth and sixth grade social studies teacher at Quest Charter Academy Middle School in Peoria and continued at Quest Charter Academy High School as Dean of Students/Assistant Principal through 2015. Dr. Belin later served as principal of Assistant Principal of Dunlap High School in Dunlap and became Principal of Huntley High School in 2018.

Dr. Marcus Belin resides in Huntley, Illinois with his wife, Monique Belin, an Elementary Instructional Coach in Huntley District #158, and their three children, Maliyah, Makenzie, and Mekhi. Dr. Belin received his Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Master's in Education Administration from Bradley University, and his Doctoral degree from National Lewis University.

The Illinois Principals Association is a leadership organization which serves over 6,000 educational leaders throughout the state of Illinois and whose mission is to develop, support, and advocate for innovative educational leaders. For more information about the IPA, please visit www.ilprincipals.org.

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