

**Mark C. Thomas, Principal, Northview High School, Grand Rapids, MI.**



Mark Thomas has been the Principal at Northview High School for the last 17 years. He is beginning his 33rd year working in public education. Northview High School has been recognized at the state and national levels for innovation and accomplishments in academic achievement, student management practices and efforts to merge career awareness and preparation with academic learning in an interdisciplinary delivery model. Last school year they were able to increase access and equity to academic rigor by providing the AP Seminar course to every sophomore student in the high school. This year they are adding a Pre-AP course for every freshman, to further advance access and equity for all.

This October he was selected for a four year term as a National Trustee for the College Board. Last year Mark completed his term as the Chair of their Midwestern Regional Council which represents 14 states. For over two decades, he has been deeply involved in shaping education policy at both the state and national levels. In 2010 he was named by his peers as the Michigan High School Principal of the Year. He has also been recognized at the state level for his efforts in helping to create the Michigan Merit Exam and the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

At the national level he has also represented Michigan and national secondary principals in many capacities in his work with such organizations as Achieve, the Education Trust, NASSP, NBPTS, NAEP, the National Conference of State Legislatures as well as several other organizations over the years. He is also passionate about the topic of workforce development and has served on the board of West Michigan Works for nearly a decade.

Mark received his undergraduate degree in education from Michigan State University. His graduate degree in educational leadership from Central Michigan University and an educational policy fellowship from the Institute for Educational Leadership and Michigan State University.