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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Ahna Davis, Principal at Cabot Freshman Academy in the Cabot School District, named the Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) Principal of the Year**

CABOT, AR – Ms. Ahna Davis, Principal at Cabot Freshman Academy in the Cabot School District, was recently named the Arkansas Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) Principal of the Year. Dr. Mike Hernandez, AAEA Executive Director, presented Mrs. Davis with the award at her school on May 1, 2023.

This award is given each year to an Arkansas secondary level principal who has succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students and has been recognized as exhibiting exceptional leadership skills in the school community.

Ms. Davis has been principal at Cabot Freshman Academy for 5 years. During this time, she has worked to bring programs in that promote achievement and increase student ownership of their learning. In the fall of 2019, Cabot Freshman Academy was chosen by College Board as one of only 200 schools in the nation to implement Pre-AP for all. The school was also named a School to Watch due to high student growth in the 2021-22 school year. This year, the school was awarded the PLCs at Work grant, which they have utilized to examine and improve areas of deficit in student instruction to ensure that all students leave at the end of the year with the essential skills needed to be successful moving forward. Ms. Davis leads her faculty to take on the mentality that all students can learn at any level if the expectation is set high.

Ms. Davis is dedicated to the education of Arkansas students and very deserving of this award as evidenced in the following comments:

"Ms. Davis is a shining example of how the building principal is the true education leader. It's very clear to every staff member that Ms. Davis is engaged with what's happening in every classroom and with her students. Ms. Davis has taken the state's PLC initiative and has quickly become a model site in our state for Professional Learning Communities. She is very involved in the process and leads with knowledge, passion, and enthusiasm." Tony Thurman, Superintendent

"Principal Davis practices authentic interaction among faculty and staff. She is honest and has the ability to build connections that make us feel we are true stakeholders in our school. With students, Principal Davis garners their respect by being fair, compassionate, and getting to know who they are, not just as a collective body of freshman, but as individuals. Cabot Freshman Academy has a positive, growth-minded culture, thanks to the great leadership found in Principal Ahna Davis." Jane Balgavy, Teacher

"All students and staff are treated equally and fairly. She has created an all-inclusive environment. All students are held to high expectations and never makes assumptions about students based on their background. She has a way to make EACH student feel valued and special." Lia Bell, Parent