

**Michael D. Stone**  
**Leadership Statement**

At this critical time in the history of American music education, leadership is the crucial ingredient to sustaining and expanding music education for all. During the COVID-19 pandemic, music educators everywhere have had to reimagine the “how” of music education, all while keeping the “what” front and center. True leadership comes from action, and action comes from planning. NAFME is currently completing a strategic planning process that will position the Association for its role as a leader in our profession for many years to come. Key to the success of NAFME over the next decade will be implementation of its values, vision, and mission. NAFME must consider the structure of membership as we have known it. What does membership look like in 2030? What membership services are essential for NAFME members? NAFME must focus its mission to serve the profession. How can NAFME ensure culturally-relevant, sequential, standards-based curriculum is adopted in America’s schools, aligned with the tenants of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access? NAFME can lead the way in this work. Lastly, key to organizational success will be effectively communicating its action plan to all American music educators and other key stakeholders. NAFME must lead with a heart for music learning!