

The National Association of State Title I Directors
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TITLE I DIRECTORS HONORS DISTINGUISHED TITLE I SCHOOLS

The National Association of State Title I Directors (NASTID) announces its annual Distinguished Title I School Recognition Program winners at its 2008 conference, "Changing Performance," January 31 – February 3, 2008 in Nashville, TN. These highlighted schools have demonstrated significant sustained academic improvement in spite of having a 35 percent or higher poverty rate. Their profiles are shared in an online publication on the NASTID website: "Changing Performance, 2008 National Title I Conference Distinguished Schools."

The 71 awarded schools (from year 2007) representing 36 states and the District of Columbia will get their certificates January 31, 2008, 7:30 to 9:00 AM in the Delta Ballroom of the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. These academically outstanding schools were selected in one of two categories: 1- Exceptional student performance for two or more consecutive years or, 2- Closing the achievement gap between student groups.

The selected schools are an example to other Title I schools of approaches, programs, and creative education techniques that work.

For instance, the area served by **Anna F. Booth Elementary School in Irvington, Alabama** was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Booth Elementary serves the children of Bayou la Batre, a small fishing community in southern Mobile County. Twenty-eight percent of the students are Vietnamese, Cambodian or Laotian; 27% are limited English proficient; and 90% qualify for free/reduced lunch. Hurricane Katrina devastated Bayou la Batre on August 29, 2005 leaving over 70% of the students homeless. Despite the devastation, teachers did not once express concern that the lingering impact would affect achievement. When the hurricane hit, the school was entering its third-year of Reading First (RF), and teachers were confident that the hurricane's aftermath would not destroy the foundation built through this grant. Staff members supported relief efforts to meet students' basic needs; and, at the end of that difficult year, student achievement continued to rise. In its fifth year of RF, students continue academic gains.

Poston Junior High in Mesa, Arizona attributes the success of its 1400 diverse students, in large part, to its faculty of dedicated and well-trained teachers who employ the essential elements of instruction, before- and after-school tutoring, and ongoing rigorous professional development. Monthly "best practices" in-services are a key component in staff development. Teachers teach each other the skills and strategies they've found most effective in the classroom.

Desert Winds Elementary in Tucson, Arizona reduced discipline referrals by more than 58% allowing more focus on learning. Positive Behavior Supports, a research-based schoolwide discipline program, helped teachers gain essential teaching time. Teacher Support Teams help teachers to evaluate students' needs and assist students in the classroom whether the need is

academic, social, or emotional. The Desert Winds' counselor and behavior coach remove barriers to learning and link intervention networks for children in the school.

Handley Elementary School in LaPorte, Indiana notes that the greatest contributing factor in Handley's success is the HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed) program. HOSTS combines latest research on effective educational practices and technology into a proven language arts mentoring program. Students link with business and community volunteer mentors who strengthen students' reading, writing, vocabulary development, study skills, and higher order thinking skills. Last year 80 mentors came each week.

At **Intermediate School 392 in Brooklyn, New York** arts, integrated with academic instruction, help provide background knowledge, rich vocabulary, and improved learning and scores. Students experience the arts throughout the day while focusing on standards-aligned instruction in each core academic area as they become well-rounded productive members of society.

Title I is the largest federal-aid program in K-12 education. The Title I program has served over 150 million children in need of extra academic support in reading, writing, and math since 1965. Many Title I students go on to be the first in their families to graduate high school and college. Some—whose backgrounds include migrant farm work, non-English speaking homes, and extreme poverty—have become teachers, military officers, computer experts, and engineers.

The Distinguished Schools demonstrate strengths in the following areas: opportunity to meet proficient/advanced levels of performance; strong professional development; coordination with other programs; curriculum and instruction to support achievement of high standards; and partnerships among schools, parents and communities. Each school submits the last three years of achievement data, has State representatives visit their school for evaluation, and creates a one-page school description. Contact these schools directly for additional information. (See attached list and access the book with contact information for each school on the NASTID website: www.TitleI.org.)

Contact A+events (800-256-6452 or TitleI@aplusevents.com) for information on the January 2008 conference.

Title I Distinguished Schools 2007

Alabama

Anna F. Booth Elementary School
Fruithurst Elementary School

Alaska

Anderson Elementary School
Mountain View Elementary School

Arizona

Poston Junior High
Desert Winds

California

West Campus High School
Monarch Academy

Colorado

Las Animas Elementary
West Park Elementary

Delaware

East Millsboro Elementary School
Long Neck Elementary School

District of Columbia

Tyler Elementary School
KIPP DC: Key Academy

Florida

Oriole Beach Elementary School
Wewahitchka Elementary School

Georgia

J.S. Pate Elementary School
International Community School

Indiana

Handley Elementary School
Lakeside Elementary School

Kansas

McCarter Elementary School
Horace Mann Dual Language

Kentucky

Millard Middle School
Second Street School

Louisiana

Abita Springs Elementary School
Riser Elementary School

Maryland

Viers Mill Elementary School
Green Holly Elementary School

Massachusetts

Boston Collegiate Charter School
Sewell-Anderson Elementary School

Minnesota

Highland Elementary School
Farnsworth Aerospace Elementary

Montana

Box Elder High School
Heart Butte Elementary School

Nebraska

Carriage Hill Elementary

Nevada

Yerington Elementary School
J.D. Smith Middle School

New Jersey

Edward J. Patten Elementary School
Essex County Vo- Tech: Bloomfield Tech

New York

Intermediate School 392
George Mather Forbes School No. 4

North Carolina

Morehead City Primary School
Longview Elementary School

North Dakota

Madison Elementary

Ohio

Prospect Elementary School
Toledo School For The Arts

Oklahoma

Cottonwood Elementary School
Byng Elementary School

Oregon

Hosford Middle School
Sacramento Elementary School

Pennsylvania

Julia R. Masterman School
Wilson Middle School

Rhode Island

Tower Street School
Globe Park School

South Carolina

W.M. Anderson Primary School
Oakland Elementary

South Dakota

Stickney Elementary School

Tennessee

Unity School
Fall-Hamilton Enhanced Option

Texas

George West Primary

Bowie Elementary School

Utah

Salina Elementary School

Escalante Valley Elementary School

Virginia

Dreamkeepers Academy

Metompkin Elementary School

Washington

Washington Elementary School

Bryn Mawr Elementary School

West Virginia

Frametown Elementary School

Beach Bottom School

Wyoming

Moorcroft Elementary School

University Park Elementary School