



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Center

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AVID Hosts Third Annual Day at the Capitol

SAN DIEGO – AVID hosted more than 250 AVID students and teachers on Capitol Hill for the 3rd Annual “AVID Day at the Capitol.” The event spanned over the course of two days in May.

“These two days provided a wonderful opportunity to build strong advocacy relationships between AVID districts and their members of Congress,” said Dr. Barbara Smith, Senior Director, External Affairs for AVID Center. “It’s also important for our students to be voices in our democracy and to be heard by the people there to represent these future leaders.”

Students from seven AVID districts in Maryland, Virginia, and Tennessee met with their respective U.S. House and Senate members, Chief Legislative aides, Press Correspondents, and Legislative Assistants for Education and Health. This was the third and largest AVID Day on Capitol Hill with four district directors, seven districts, 13 schools, 22 coordinators/teachers, and 250 students participating in the two-day event.

Dr. Smith commented, “Capitol Day is inspirational work and the benefits for AVID, in addition to our individual and personal goals for student success, transcend the work completed over the two-day experience.” The days were filled with high energy marathons between the House Office Buildings, Senate Office Buildings, and photo ops at the Capitol.”

In addition, the team introduced AVID to several national leaders who are allies/advocates for AVID. Among the group of national leaders were **Jennifer Lerner**, Deputy Director, American Policy and Youth Forum; **Suzanne Immerman**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education; **Omari Pearson**, President & Founder, Passion To Purpose, and consultant, Operation HOPE, Banking On Our Future College Edition.; **David Hamrick**, National Recruitment Director, TEACH.org; **Kevin Lawler**, Deputy National Recruitment Director, TEACH.org; **Macharia Edmonds**, DC Regional Director, TEACH.org; **Allie Wilding**, Director of Communications, National Council of Teacher Quality; and staff from Congressman Cummings office, including Chief of Staff **Vernon Simms**, Staff Assistant **Brett Cozzolino**, and Policy Advisor **Jimmy Fremgen**.



“Our children are the living messages that we send to a future that we will never see.”
- Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, MD, 7th District, U.S. House of Representatives,
pictured, center, with AVID Center staff.

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ABOUT AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.