



Advancement Via Individual Determination

MEDIA RELEASE

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AVID Center

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Dr. Edward Lee Vargas to Join AVID Center as Executive Vice President

SAN DIEGO – AVID Center is pleased to announce that Dr. Edward Lee Vargas has been named as an Executive Vice President of the organization. Dr. Vargas has served as superintendent in large urban school districts in California, New Mexico, Texas, and Washington, where he received numerous awards for outstanding leadership from the school districts, as well as the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, city mayors, the legislative branch of the California State Assembly, and a special congressional recognition from members of the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. He was honored as State Superintendent of the Year in California (2006) and Washington (2014). After being named Superintendent of the Year in California, he was recruited to the Stupski Foundation as a “Superintendent in Residence,” where he coached other system leaders around the country until his appointment to the Kent School District, located in the Seattle metropolitan area, in 2009.

Most recently, Dr. Vargas served as superintendent of the Kent School District, the fourth largest district in the state of Washington and one of the most diverse districts in the nation, with more than 130 languages spoken by students and families. In Kent, Dr. Vargas is widely regarded as a critical part of the district’s success in improving test scores, increasing graduation rates, advancing technological integration, and increasing parent and community engagement.

“We are excited that Dr. Vargas will be joining us at AVID Center. He brings a wealth of experience in working with schools and districts, and his highly respected and successful leadership skills will help us achieve our goals,” said AVID CEO Dr. Sandy Husk. “His work on behalf of students, who are often the first in their families to attend college, aligns beautifully with AVID’s mission.”

Dr. Vargas, who will begin at AVID Center late this fall, stated, “I am thrilled to be joining AVID’s Senior Leadership Team, to become a part of such a dynamic, exciting, and life-changing organization. The opportunity to be a part of advancing and expanding the college pathway for students, for whom it is not a given, is a privilege and an honor. So many of the students that AVID serves and seeks to serve are students who are just like me, with similar families and backgrounds—students for whom the pathway to college may seem unattainable and merely a dream. I can’t wait to be a part of the organization that will help them see that it is not a dream, but a reality that is their right, and that will help them reach their goals and live their dreams.”

Dr. Vargas received his master’s degree from the University of New Mexico in Educational Diagnosis and a doctorate from the University of Washington in Leadership and Policy. He is currently serving as president elect for the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS).

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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 5,000 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. AVID partners with schools to provide proven professional learning and tools for educators, which transform a school’s instruction, systems, leadership, and culture. This work results in over 90 percent of students who are eligible to enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in higher education and training.

For more information, visit www.avid.org.