



**Advancement Via Individual Determination**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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AVID Center

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**AVID Teacher Visits White House**  
*Brings back note from President to class*

SAN DIEGO – AVID high school teacher Bethany Rivard recently returned from visit with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office at the White House. Rivard, an AVID and English teacher at Fort Vancouver High School, WA, and her family traveled to Washington, D.C., and visited the White House with her sister-in-law who had recently served as deputy press secretary for the president.

Prior to her departure, Rivard took a framed picture of her AVID students, and on the white mat surrounding the photo, she said, "My students wrote 'I will' statements next to their pictures, such as: 'I will be the first person in my family to graduate.'" Rivard gave the president the photo of her AVID students along with their 'I will' statements.

Returning to school the next week, she surprised her class with a note of inspiration from the president. "The president wrote us a response on the spot," said Rivard. "It was quite something! For my students, making these statements of determination to the President of the United States was meaningful." Obama wrote this note on White House stationery: "Dream big dreams!"

"Having the president write back to us reinforced that our voice can be heard and has helped inspire me to be a leader in the future," said one of Mrs. Rivard's students.

Another student, who will be the first in her family to graduate from high school or college, added, "It's motivation for me to achieve my goal of attending college."

Rivard, who has taught at Fort Vancouver for eight years and has been teaching AVID for two years, said the visit with the President is one she won't forget. But more importantly, "the message of encouragement from the President of the United States inspired my students and will help shape their lives; I will always be grateful for that."

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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.

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