



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Abercrombie to welcome more than 1,600 AVID educators

Enrollment in AVID Summer Institutes grows as schools look for ways to close the achievement gap

SAN DIEGO – An established leader in preparing first-generation and underserved students for college, AVID Center is hosting its first Hawaiian Summer Institute in Honolulu, June 5-7. Hawaii Governor Neil Abercrombie is scheduled to welcome the educators and emphasize the importance of their work to the future of the state and nation.

AVID Summer Institutes are annual professional development conferences where teams of educators from contracted schools come to learn the latest in AVID curriculum and teaching techniques, acquire new skills, and share best practices. Participants leave AVID Summer Institutes empowered to close the achievement gap and inspired to advocate and support their students as they strive to achieve their college dreams. More than 1,500 Hawaiian educators – elementary through secondary – will join peers from Australia and the western mainland U.S. to refine their teaching skills.

“Our Summer Institutes offer high quality professional development that is focused on critical thinking, study and organization skills, and on giving students the support they need to succeed in rigorous coursework,” explained Jim Nelson, Executive Director for AVID Center. “It’s clear that if America is to remain an economic power, it needs to have more and more young people reaching and completing higher levels of education.”

The highlight of each Institute features two local student speakers and one teacher speaker sharing their stories about how AVID has affected their academic and personal lives, as well as their plans for the future. The stories motivate and inspire the entire audience, reminding educators how important their work is, and how significantly it impacts young lives.

Nearly 25,000 educators from 44 states, as well as Australia, Canada, Virgin Islands, and U.S. Department of Defense Schools, will take part in this year’s AVID Summer Institutes. The first of nine, three-day AVID Summer Institutes entitled, *In Pursuit of Success: Dream Big!*, begins June 5 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Other Summer Institutes will be held in Dallas, TX; Orlando, FL; Indianapolis, IN; San Antonio, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Sacramento and San Diego, CA.

At the end of each three-day-long Institute, participants are ready to return to their schools with new ideas and a renewed sense of commitment to improve the lives of their students through education. According to Nicole Patzkowsky, a teacher at American Union Elementary School in Fresno, CA, “AVID training was life changing for me.”

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ABOUT AVID

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Established in 1980 in one school in San Diego, today AVID is implemented in approximately 4,900 schools in 46 states and 16 countries/territories. AVID impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K-12 and postsecondary, helping them learn and develop the skills they need to be successful in college and their career. The AVID College Readiness System transforms an institution'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.

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