



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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Dallas hosts 4,500 Educators at AVID Summer Institute Local Teachers to be Part of National Effort to Close Achievement Gap

SAN DIEGO – Dallas will host more than 4,500 educators June 26-28 at the Hyatt Regency as teachers gather to learn strategies to improve student engagement, increase graduation rates and close achievement gaps in underserved student populations. The conference, led by AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, will feature local student and teacher speakers discussing how AVID has affected their academic and personal lives, as well as their plans for the future.

Two Dallas/Ft. Worth area AVID students, Kersten Heidel from Timber Creek High School in Keller, and Anthony Galo from Hillcrest High School in Dallas, and former Grand Prairie Independent School District AVID teacher Mike Mozingo, along with University of Texas Permian Basin junior Danny Martinez will tell their personal and inspiring stories about the impact education had on their lives.

“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,” explained Jim Nelson, Executive Director for AVID Center and former Commissioner of Education in Texas. “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.”

Dallas will be one of nine AVID Summer Institute sites across the country including Honolulu, HI; Orlando, FL; Indianapolis, IN; San Antonio, TX; Philadelphia, PA; Sacramento and San Diego, CA. More than 24,000 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 Institutes entitled, *In Pursuit of Success: Dream Big!*

An established leader in preparing first-generation and underserved students for college, 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.

To learn more or to register, please visit www.avidcenter.org.

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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.

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