



**Advancement Via Individual Determination**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

July 18, 2013

**CONTACT:** Liz Morse, AVID Center

214.718.8380

[lmorse@avidcenter.org](mailto:lmorse@avidcenter.org)

## **AVID hosts over 2,300 educators at Summer Institute in Philadelphia** **Local teachers part of national effort to close achievement gap**

SAN DIEGO – This summer more than 24,000 educators will be training in AVID strategies. AVID hosted over 2,300 educators in Philadelphia, PA at one of nine Summer Institutes entitled *In Pursuit of Success: Dream Big!* on July 15–17. Teachers, counselors, and administrators, primarily from Philadelphia, gathered to learn strategies to improve student engagement, increase graduation rates, and close achievement gaps in underserved student populations. The conference, led by AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) featured local student and teacher speakers discussing how AVID has affected their academic and personal lives, as well as their plans for the future.

Two AVID students, Sylvia Pericles from Curtis High School in Staten Island, NY, and Cole Kitchens from Oscar F. Smith High School in Chesapeake, VA, and AVID teacher Jacqueline Dipzinski from East Irondequoit Middle School in Rochester, NY inspired a captivated audience with their personal stories about the impact education and AVID have 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. “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.”

Philadelphia was one of nine AVID Summer Institute sites across the country including Honolulu, HI; Dallas, TX; Indianapolis, IN; San Antonio, TX; Orlando, FL; 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.

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, please visit [www.avidcenter.org](http://www.avidcenter.org).

###

**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.

###