



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

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AVID hosts nearly 2,500 educators at Summer Institute in Sacramento **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 nearly 2,500 educators in Sacramento, CA at one of nine Summer Institutes entitled *In Pursuit of Success: Dream Big!* on July 8–10. Teachers, counselors, and administrators, primarily from California, 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, Vanessa Barajas from McKay High School in Salem, OR, and Brittany Stocking from Del Mar High School in San Jose, CA, and AVID teacher Frank Kovac from South Tahoe High School in South Tahoe, CA 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.”

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

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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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