



**Advancement Via Individual Determination**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **Wells Fargo Receives AVID/U-T San Diego Community Service Award**

SAN DIEGO – As schools struggle for resources, AVID Center and U-T San Diego recognize organizations that go above and beyond to support education. This year, Wells Fargo received the honor for their nationwide philanthropic work in education.

In 2012, Wells Fargo invested a total of \$315.8 million in 19,500 non-profits and schools across the country, increasing their 2011 contribution by 48 percent. That same year, their team members provided 1.5 million volunteer hours. Victor Perez, vice president of Wells Fargo, graciously accepted the award saying, “Thank you for this prestigious honor. We are proud of our history of partnering with organizations and businesses in the communities we do business in.”

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a kindergarten through higher education system that helps students prepare for four-year college eligibility. At the secondary level, AVID targets students in the academic middle who have the willingness and drive to work hard in order to achieve their college dreams. The system, founded in 1980 by Clairemont High School teacher Mary Catherine Swanson, challenges students to take high-rigor courses, such as Advanced Placement and honors, and provides the academic and social support needed for success. To support educators, AVID Center hosts yearly Summer Institutes where the AVID community comes together to learn the latest in AVID curriculum and teaching techniques. Today, the San Diego-based organization serves more than 700,000 students around the world.

AVID Center’s Executive Director, Jim Nelson, offered these words, “Summer Institute is a time for educators to come together and learn how to successfully implement the AVID system. However, they can’t do it alone when they get back to their schools—it really is a community effort. We are grateful to Wells Fargo and their commitment to giving back to the communities they serve.”

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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 more than 4,900 schools in 45 states and 16 countries/territories. AVID impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K-12, as well as students in 28 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.

For more information visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).