



Advancement Via Individual Determination

NEWS RELEASE

February 14, 2014
AVID Center

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AVID Congratulates El Monte Union High School District *College Board's Advanced Placement[®] District of the Year cites AVID as a reason for its student success*

SAN DIEGO—AVID Center is pleased to congratulate the El Monte Union High School District for being named the College Board Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence District of the Year. The district received the honor for being the nation's leader, among medium-sized school districts, in simultaneously expanding access to Advanced Placement Program (AP) courses and improving AP Exam performance.

“We congratulate El Monte, and all of the districts making strides to expand access to AP courses for all students,” said AVID Center CEO Sandy Husk. “We are proud that El Monte Superintendent Nick Salerno pointed to their ‘strong AVID program’ as a reason for this success. Our belief has always been that all students can succeed in rigorous courses with the proper support.”

Successful AVID implementations include opening access to rigorous courses for all students, ensuring that they are given every opportunity to be prepared for, and to attend, and graduate from college. The AVID System supports students as they engage in challenging courses. Moreover, schoolwide AVID approaches such as those in El Monte, create a college-going culture on campuses by setting high expectations for all students and providing professional learning for the adults who support them.

In November of 2013, El Monte was one of 477 school districts across the U.S. and Canada that achieved placement on the Annual AP District Honor Roll. From this list, three AP Districts of the Year—one for each category of district population size: small, medium, and large—were selected based on an analysis of three academic years of AP data. Five of six high schools in the district have implemented AVID schoolwide, resulting in strong AP enrollment with a diverse student enrollment.

From 2010 to 2013, El Monte:

- Increased student participation in AP by 6 percent annually;
- Increased the percentage of AP students earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP Exam by 5 percent annually, with 55 percent of their AP students scoring 3 or higher in 2013; and
- Increased the percentage of traditionally underserved minority AP students earning a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam by 10 percent annually—an increase of 62 students last year.

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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 approximately 4,900 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia, and 16 countries/territories and impacts more than 700,000 students in grades K–12 and in 41 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.