



NEWS

Glendale Unified School District

223 North Jackson St., Glendale, CA 91206-4380 • 818-241-3111, ext. 218 • FAX 818-548-9041

Contact: Public Information/ Administrative Services FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Distribution Date: December 10, 2014

NEWS ADVISORY

Local School Selected as Finalists for the 2015 National Excellence in Urban Education Award

Glendale, CA – The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) announced on December 9, 2014 that 22 schools from across the country were chosen as finalists for the National Excellence in Urban Education Award. Among the finalists was Cerritos Elementary School.

“These schools are among the best urban schools in the nation,” stated Dr. Joseph F. Johnson, Jr., Executive Director of the National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST), the organization that administers the award program. “Although these schools serve low-income communities with an array of challenges, every finalist boasts achievement results that exceed state averages for all students.”

These schools generate strong test results, high rates of attendance, and excellent student behavior. Furthermore, the outstanding results are apparent for every demographic group of students enrolled.

Beginning in early January, Cerritos will receive a site visit from an NCUST evaluation team of researchers and practitioners. After the site visit is completed, NCUST will announce 10 to 15 award winners in March. Each winning school in the three divisions: elementary (serving grades pre-kindergarten through six); middle school (serving students up through grade eight); and high school (serving students through grade 12) will receive \$2,500 and will be featured at the National Excellence in Urban Education Symposium to be held in Dallas, TX, May 20-22, 2015.

To be eligible for the NCUST Award, schools must have high numbers of low-income students and may not have selective admissions policies. The school’s test results must be better than the state average for all students. Also, the school’s test results for every demographic group of students must be better than the state average for all students. All schools must have high attendance rates, low suspension and expulsion rates, high graduation rates, and evidence of excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) provides programs, tools, and research intended to help districts create more high-performing urban schools. For more information on the National Center for Urban School Transformation, their findings, as well as their programs, please visit their website at www.ncust.org or call (619) 594-7905.

###