



Nine Charter Schools Honored as 2009 National Blue Ribbon Schools

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Washington, D.C. - Nine public charter schools in seven states honored as Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education will be recognized at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., November 2-3.

"Congratulations to these charter schools that are setting a standard of excellence and using innovation to bring students to a higher level of academic achievement," said National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President and CEO Nelson Smith. "Receiving the Blue Ribbon distinction is a significant accomplishment and we offer heartfelt congratulations to the school leaders, students, teachers, and families who have worked hard to earn this honor."

The 9 public charter schools earning the 2009 Blue Ribbon Award (by state) are:

- San Jose-Edison Academy - West Covina, CA
- Sixth Street Prep School - St. Victorville, CA
- City of Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School (West and Central) - Pembroke Pines, FL
- Benjamin Franklin High School - New Orleans, LA
- Math and Science Academy - St. Paul, MN
- Horizon Science Academy Cleveland - Cleveland, OH
- AD Prima Charter School - Philadelphia, PA
- St Mary's Academy Charter School - Beeville, TX
- YES Prep Public Schools, (North Central Campus) - Houston, TX

The award recognizes public and private schools that demonstrate significant gains in student achievement or high academic performance. To be honored for academic performance, public school students must achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests. The schools honored for making significant gains have at least 40 percent of their students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds and post dramatic improvement on state tests or nationally-normed tests. The U.S. Department of Education has been honoring Blue Ribbon Award winners since 1982. This year there were a total of 264 public schools awarded.

The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (www.publiccharters.org) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement. Currently, more than 1.5 million students attend 4,900 public charter schools in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

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