



Tom Horne Reports to Educators

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A Message from the Superintendent

In This Issue

Page 1
A Message from the
Superintendent

Page 2
Celebrating Education
2006 National Milken
Educators

Page 3
2007 History Teacher of
the Year Award
Academic Contest
Funds
Butler-Cooley
Excellence in Teaching
Award

Page 4
Bring Blue Back
Piece the Puzzle
Adventures in Savings
Educational Interview
Festival

Please try IDEAL! IDEAL is a single point of entry on the internet to educational and instructional resources. We have spent substantial amounts from the Department of Education's share of federal resources, that could have gone for additional employees, into developing and maintaining this online service, specifically geared to assist Arizona educators with professional development and other opportunities.

NOW WE HAVE TO GET THE WORD OUT SO PEOPLE WILL USE IT!

You can enter IDEAL from our website, www.azed.gov.

IDEAL serves as a gateway to a rich array of K-12 curricular resources, searchable by grade level and Arizona standards.

- An on-demand library of over 3,000 educational video titles, streamed to your computer desktop.
- Interactive multimedia, standards-based math lessons.
- Downloadable lessons from across the curriculum including Fine Arts, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and PE/Health. Links to educator-reviewed web sites indexed by subject.

IDEAL connects teachers with development courses and materials for career advancement.

- How-To Center - Teacher development materials covering everything from how to use popular software applications in the classroom, to creating lessons with primary sources, to using digital cameras and troubleshooting computer problems.
- ADE Reference Library - Searchable online database of trade books aligned to the Arizona Academic Standards by grade level, subject area, strand, concept, and/or students' reading levels.
- Recipes4Success - Interactive lessons to help you learn software applications such as PowerPoint, iMovie, and Photoshop.
- Course Catalog - Online professional development courses from ASSET, the George Lucas Educational Foundation, Intel Foundation, PBS TeacherLine, TEAMS, and Thirteen Ed Online. Graduate credit is available for specific courses.

Formative Assessments - IDEAL gives teachers access to the Formative Assessment Test Item Bank, to provide:

- Insight on students' strengths and conceptual errors in relation to specific course concepts.
- Guidance to improve student understanding.
- A means of monitoring progress in learning.
- Diagnostic information concerning students' understanding of concepts.
- Feedback to the instructor about the effectiveness of instructional activities.

Sincerely,

Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Celebrating Education



Congratulations 2006 National Milken Educators

The [Milken Family Foundation National Educator Awards](#) program provides public recognition and financial rewards to elementary and secondary school teachers, principals and other education professionals who are furthering excellence in education.

This year two Arizona educators were presented this very prestigious award. Along with receiving a \$25,000 prize, they will join 80 other outstanding educators from across the country at the Milken National Education Conference.

Respected as one of the premier events in K-12 education, the Milken National Education Conference is a solutions-oriented conference bringing together leaders from education, government, business and foundations, as well as Milken Educators from 48 states and the District of Columbia.

This year's agenda will feature top thinkers from around the globe focused on the development and deployment of talented teachers to maximize student performance and guide the next generation towards a productive future.

On Sunday evening, the Milken National Educator Awards Gala—referred to as the "Oscars of teaching" by Teacher Magazine—will celebrate these exemplary educators before an audience of some 600 guests.

And the winners are...Mr. Marco Ramirez, Principal of Pueblo Gardens Elementary, and Mrs. Laura Lyman, 3rd grade teacher at Ishikawa Elementary!

Marco Ramirez



L-R: Sahuarita Unified School District Assistant Superintendent & 1998 Milken Educator Dr. Manny Valenzuela, Milken Educator Awards Senior VP Dr. Jane Foley, new Milken Educator Marco Ramirez, and Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne

Despite being principal of a school with a very high poverty rate, Marco Ramirez has helped students at Pueblo Gardens Elementary School in Tucson become the district's top achievers. His almost entirely Hispanic student population scored 11 percent above the district average in math and posted an 8 percent gain in reading mastery on the state assessment. During the 2004-2005 school year, Pueblo Gardens was the state's only Title I school to be designated a Highly Performing School. Mr. Ramirez has helped achieve this success in part by supporting his teachers' use of technology to differentiate instruction and enhance learning, and ensuring that all teachers are trained in the SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol) approach to delivering the curriculum. In addition to his school leadership, Mr. Ramirez is an educational consultant, has served on the Arizona Department of Education's Best Practices Conference Committee, and has presented at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM). His school's low teacher turnover and high student achievement are living proof of Mr. Ramirez's excellence as an educator.

Laura Lyman

Though the most challenging students are often placed in her classroom, third-grade teacher Laura Lyman helps all of her students progress beyond expectations at Ishikawa Elementary School in Mesa. A master of differentiated instruction, Ms. Lyman expertly adapts to the individual needs of each student and uses visuals, costumes, voices and drawings to engage and actively involve her students. Their test scores are consistently high, with nearly all mastering the state's math and reading standards. Ms. Lyman became a certified reading specialist to provide her students with the most effective reading instruction possible. She leads the school's third-grade team and is the primary lead teacher for the reading design team, a group of in-school experts on reading acquisition. As a culminating activity for a reading lesson on the International Summer Olympics, Ms. Lyman's students hold an outdoor event called the Third-Grade Olympics. Just one more way that this outstanding educator is helping turn children into champions.



L-R: Mesa Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Debra Duvall, Mesa Public Schools Associate Superintendent Dr. Michael Cowan, Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne, Foundation Trustee Rosey Grier, new Milken Educator Laura Lyman, and Foundation Chairman Lowell Milken.

2007 Preserve America History Teacher of the Year



The 2007 Preserve America History Teacher of the Year nomination process is now available.

For 2007, all elementary teachers (K-6) who have responsibility for teaching American history are eligible for nomination. Winners will be chosen based on several criteria:

- * At least three years of experience in teaching American history in elementary school.
- * A deep career commitment to teaching American history, which includes local and state history.
- * Evidence of creativity and imagination in the classroom that address literacy and content beyond state standards.
- * Close attention to primary documents, artifacts, historic sites, and the other primary materials of history, including oral history.
- * Evidence of thoughtful assessment of student achievement.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 20, 2007**. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional information, including details on this year's nomination process

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

2006 - 2007 Academic Contest Funds

It's that time of year again for the Arizona Academic Contest Funds. If your school has a team or organization who participated and won a state-wide event and will compete at the national level you may be eligible for funding. Funds can be used to aid with the cost of travel, accommodations, and meals. Not only does it include the students, but chaperones as well. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about this opportunity. You may download the application from this site and return it to the address provided.

Per State Board Ruling only district schools are eligible to participate. If you have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to contact Karla Bravo at Karla.Bravo@azed.gov. We look forward to receiving your applications by the **April 27th deadline**.

Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award

The Turnaround Management Association (TMA) recognizes outstanding elementary and secondary school teachers with the Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award. This program, made possible through the John William Butler Foundation, honors teachers who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and skill in shaping the lives of students and the communities in which they live. It provides \$5,000 cash stipends to three to five public or private school teachers. These teachers also receive travel and lodging expenses to the 2007 TMA Annual Convention in Boston, Massachusetts, October 16-19.

The Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award program is open to currently licensed, active K-12 teachers employed by accredited schools for at least five years. Teachers may nominate themselves or others may submit a teacher nomination. **Applications for the 2007 Butler-Cooley Excellence in Teaching Award are due May 1.**

Guidelines, applications, and a list of previous recipients are available online at www.turnaround.org/about/awards.asp.

The Maricopa County Clean Air Initiative

Teachers and students in the greater Phoenix area are encouraged to visit a new website from Maricopa County, www.BringBackBlue.org.

The website explains winter air quality issues including particulate matter, high pollution advisories, health effects of pollution and what we can do to bring back the blue skies in Maricopa County.

Piece the Puzzle Walk/Run and Resource Fair for Autism

The Autism Society of America Pima County Chapter would like to invite you to participate in our First Annual Walk/Run and Resource Fair at Reid Park on April 14, 2007 from 8:00a.m. - 12:00 p.m. For more information and to register for the event please visit us at www.tucsonautism.org.



Adventures in Saving with ING DIRECT

On March 1st, ING DIRECT launched its first-ever national children's story-writing contest. Writers will be asked to develop an original, imaginative story that teaches a basic money lesson to 4 to 7 year olds. A grand prize winner in each of the three age categories (ages 6-12; 13-19; and 20+) will receive \$1,000 and get his/her books illustrated and published. Stories will be accepted online until June 30, 2007. There is no fee to enter the contest.

Our goal is that Adventures in Saving will encourage people of all ages to try their hand at writing a story that will help teach young children about the importance of healthy financial habits. ING DIRECT is committed to children's education and financial literacy. Good luck!

www.adventuresinsaving.com



Northern Arizona University to Host Educational Interview Festival

The College of Education and the Gateway Center for Student Success will be teaming up on April 5, 2007, to host the annual Educational Interview Festival at the Rolle Activity Center at NAU. Numerous preservice teachers attend this event each year and leave with teaching positions around the state. The event is scheduled to open at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m. Registration is just \$60.00.

"Meet the Schools" is a free informational event held at NAU's College of Education specifically designed for students to learn about the various districts and investigate student teaching/employment opportunities. This event is April 4, 2007 and is scheduled to run from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information about "Meet the Schools" or the Education Interview Festival, visit www.nau.edu/gateway or call Sonya Daw at 928.523.6105.

Got a story idea, picture, or celebration?
We'd love to hear from you! Email us at: ADENews@ade.az.gov