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Department of Education Recognizes 32 Schools for Dedication to High Quality Civic Engagement

(Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 16, 2016) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas today announced that 32 Arizona public schools are being recognized as 2015-2016 Arizona Civic Engagement schools by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) Excellence in Civic Engagement Program (ECEP). Now in its fourth year, ECEP recognizes and supports the important role schools play in ensuring that students are informed and engaged citizens.

"As we educate our children, there are few things I see as more important than helping them understand their rights, roles and responsibilities as American citizens," said Superintendent Douglas. "The schools being honored as part of the ECEP program are shining examples of the work being done in Arizona to prepare our students to actively participate in their communities and government when they leave the school system."

ECEP identifies schools that demonstrate knowledge and effective implementation of the following six proven practices in civic learning: classroom instruction in civics and government, history, economics, geography, law and democracy; service learning linked to classroom learning; experiential learning; learning through participation in models and simulations of democratic processes and procedures; guided classroom discussion of current issues and events; and meaningful participation in school governance.

Public schools from around the state, both traditional and charter, applied for recognition as an Arizona Civic Engagement school with one of the following designations: School of Merit, School of Distinction or School of Excellence. Of those schools, 16 have been recognized as Schools of Merit, 10 have been honored as Schools of Distinction and four have received the most prestigious recognition as Schools of Excellence.

The schools will be formally recognized at an award ceremony on September 16, 2016.

For more information about ADE's Excellence in Civic Engagement Program, please visit www.azed.gov/civicanagement.

Excellence in Civic Engagement Program Award Recipients 2015-2016

SCHOOLS OF MERIT

SCHOOL

Carson Junior High School
Chandler High School
Cocopah Middle School
East Valley Academy
Fremont Junior High School
Imagine Prep at Surprise
Kino Junior High School
Mesa High School
Mountain View High School
New School for the Arts & Academics
Sandra Day O'Connor High School
Slinrine Elementary School
Skyline High School
Smith Junior High School
Sossaman Middle School
Stapley Junior High School
Summit Academy
Taylor Junior High School

DISTRICT

Mesa Public Schools
Chandler Unified School District
Scottsdale Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Charter
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Charter
Deer Valley Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Higley Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools

SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION

SCHOOL

Arizona Charter Academy
Basha High School
Boulder Creek High School
Dobson High School
Franklin Junior High School
Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies
Rhodes Junior High School
Safford K-8 IB Magnet School
Shadow Ridge High School
Shepherd Junior High School

DISTRICT

Charter
Chandler Unified School District
Deer Valley Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools
Tucson Unified School District
Dysart Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools

SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE

SCHOOL

Arizona School for the Arts
Hamilton High School
Red Mountain High School
Westwood High School

DISTRICT

Charter
Chandler Unified School District
Mesa Public Schools
Mesa Public Schools