



PRESS RELEASE

15250 Avenue of Science ■ San Diego ■ California 92128-3406
Phone (858) 521-2707 ■ FAX (858) 485-1075

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Contact: Sharon Raffer, Communications Director

Los Peñasquitos Elementary School Named National Blue Ribbon School

The Poway Unified School District is proud to announce that Los Peñasquitos Elementary School has been named by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2011 Blue Ribbon School.

"It is an honor for PUSD to have Los Peñasquitos Elementary School be recognized with a National Blue Ribbon Award," said Dr. John Collins, Superintendent. "This prestigious award for student achievement reflects on the strong focus of the students, teachers, staff, and parents to ensure student success. We congratulate Los Peñasquitos as they receive this honor for the second time. PUSD has 15 schools that have been recognized as Blue Ribbon Schools."

PUSD Board of Education President Penny Ranftle said, "The Blue Ribbon award, which is the highest honor for our nation's schools, represents the total commitment, caring, and sense of community and academic achievement at Los Peñasquitos that exists not just during one test or one day, but each and every day. Congratulations to all."

The mission and vision for Los Peñasquitos Elementary School lives in the hearts of every staff member, student, and parent: *Every student without excuse and without exception will be proficient or advanced in reading, language arts, and math.* The staff pledged: *We are committed to creating a school that knows no limits to the academic success of each student.* This pledge guides the work at Los Peñasquitos to embrace practices that result in academic achievement for all students.

Principal Deanne McLaughlin said, "This award is a tribute to the dedication and passion that the Los Pen staff has for our students and to the No Excuses University program in place at

our school. It also speaks to the hard work of our students and their families. Holding high expectations, setting individual goals, and meeting the specific needs of our children are helping them to achieve personal success and prepare for college. I am so proud of the Los Peñasquitos community for this well-deserved award.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high-performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. The program is part of a larger Department of Education effort to identify and disseminate knowledge about best school leadership and teaching practices. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals, including those that beat the odds.

Fifteen PUSD schools have received National Blue Ribbon Awards including:

- Bernardo Heights Middle School – 2000
- Black Mountain Middle School – 2000, 1991
- Chaparral Elementary School – 2001, 1992
- Los Peñasquitos Elementary School – 2011, 2001
- Meadowbrook Middle School – 2000, 1985
- Mesa Verde Middle School – 2000
- Morning Creek Elementary School – 1994
- Mt. Carmel High School – 2000, 1989
- Park Village Elementary School – 2001
- Pomerado Elementary School – 1990
- Poway High School – 1991
- Rancho Bernardo High School – 2000
- Twin Peaks Middle School – 2000, 1991, 1984
- Sundance Elementary School – 1988
- Westwood Elementary School – 2001

The U.S. Department of Education will honor 256 public and 49 private schools at a conference and awards ceremony in Washington, DC, on November 14 and 15. Each school will receive a plaque and a flag to signify their status as National Blue Ribbon Schools.

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