



PRESS RELEASE

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Poway High Senior Selected as Speaker for AVID Summer Institute

Gustavo Lopez, Poway High School senior, has been chosen to speak at the AVID Summer Institute in San Diego, California this August. Gustavo is president of Poway High's AVID and a member of the National Honor Society. He is a peer counselor and a tutor. Gustavo also sits on the PUSD Board of Education dais, sharing the students' perspective as the Poway Unified Student Board Member.

Since 1989, AVID has held Summer Institutes to train teachers in AVID strategies and methodologies to prepare students for college. One of the highlights of each Institute is the student speakers, who in sharing their stories of struggles to success, inspire, encourage and motivate participants. In 2011, nearly 20,000 educators attending the summer institutes heard stories of great achievement from students who, because of AVID, were able to achieve their dream of attending college. Gustavo is one of 16 speakers at conferences throughout California. More than 800 students submitted essays and presented via video for this honor.

Eight years ago, when Gustavo came to Poway he knew no English. Through the English Language Learners (ELL) program beginning in fifth grade, and AVID beginning in seventh grade, Gustavo said he has received the support that has made it possible for him to succeed and take classes ranging from AP English Literature to AP Physics. Gustavo has recently made his college choice: he will be attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where he will be studying architecture.

AVID is a fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. It has a proven track record in bringing out the best in students, and in closing the achievement gap. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination.

AVID is more than a program - it's a philosophy: Hold students accountable to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge. What differentiates AVID from other educational reform programs is its astounding success rate. Since 1990, more than 110,000 AVID students have graduated from high school and planned to attend college. Of the 27,891 AVID graduates in 2011, 91% plan to attend a postsecondary institution; 58% in four-year institutions and 33% in two-year institutions. For more information visit www.avid.org.