

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Contact: Pamela Engler—NCUST Program Coordinator (619) 594-7905****CENTER SELECTS HIGH-PERFORMING URBAN SCHOOLS FROM THE BRONX TO L.A. FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION***The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) names Honor Roll schools and finalists for the 2010 National Excellence in Urban Education Award.*

SAN DIEGO – (Monday, January 11, 2010) — “We are finding more and more proof every year that achievement gaps can be eradicated and children in urban centers can attain academic excellence,” confirmed Dr. Joseph F. Johnson, Jr., Executive Director of NCUST. The center chose 45 high-performing urban schools across the country to be placed on the 2010 NCUST Honor Roll. To be eligible, schools must have high numbers of low-income students and may not have selective admissions policies. Test results must be better than the state average on required assessments, and show little or no achievement gap between demographic groups of students. All schools must have high attendance rates, low suspension and expulsion rates, high graduation rates, and achieve the federal government’s NCLB Adequate Yearly Progress consistently for at least the past two years.

From among the 45 NCUST Honor Roll schools identified for 2010, twenty-five contenders were chosen for the Fifth Annual National Excellence in Urban Education Award. Dr. Lynne Perez, NCUST Senior Researcher, explained, “We have evaluation teams traveling from San Diego State University beginning this week to conduct site visits and look for examples of exceptional learning, instruction, and leadership. We are on a mission to identify the best of the best!”

This year winners receive a \$1,000 award check and complimentary travel and registration for two people to Long Beach, CA, May 5-7, 2010. Representatives of winning schools are to be featured presenters at the annual High Performing Urban Schools Symposium. As well, each school receives a large banner, a commemorative photo album, and a profile on the NCUST website. The 25 outstanding schools selected for site visits in 2010 are listed below by state and district.

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Arizona:

- Mesa Unified School District: Whittier Elementary, Mesa, AZ

California:

- Glendale Unified School District: Horace Mann Elementary, Glendale, CA
- Long Beach Unified School District: William Cullen Bryant Elementary, Elizabeth Hudson International Studies K-8, and International Elementary, Long Beach, CA
- Los Angeles Unified School District: Clifford Elementary, Lemay Elementary, and Nueva Vista Elementary, Los Angeles, CA

Florida:

- Broward County School District: James S. Hunt Elementary, Coral Springs, FL

Georgia:

- Atlanta Public Schools: Whitefoord Elementary, Atlanta, GA

Kansas:

- Wichita Public Schools: Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet, Wichita, KS

Maryland:

- Baltimore City Public Schools: Bentalou Elementary and Cecil Elementary, Baltimore, MD
- Montgomery County Public Schools: Viers Mill Elementary, Silver Springs, MD

New Jersey:

- The Newark Public Schools: Branch Brooke Elementary, Newark, NJ

New York:

- NYC Dept. of Ed.: Marble High School of International Studies, District 10, Bronx, NY
- Mt. Vernon City School District: Cecil H. Parker Elementary, Mt. Vernon, NY
- Rochester City School District: Dr. Charles T. Lunsford School #19 and Francis Parker School #23, Rochester, NY

Texas:

- Dallas Independent School District: Nathan Adams Elementary, Dallas, TX
- Aldine Independent School District: George Washington Carver Magnet, Hambrick Middle School, and Mary Walke Stephens Elementary, Houston, TX
- Socorro Independent School District: Escontrias Elementary, El Paso, TX

Virginia:

- Roanoke City Public Schools: Highland Park Elementary, Roanoke, VA

The remaining 20 Honor Roll schools that did not receive visits will be acknowledged with a framed certificate and recognition on the NCUST website. For further information on the National Excellence in Urban Education Awards or the NCUST Symposium, please call (619) 594-7905 or visit <http://www.ncust.org/>. NCUST has supported more than 150 urban schools nationwide with recognition, research, and leadership development. NCUST is a part of the QUALCOMM Institute for Innovation and Educational Success at San Diego State University.