PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
2010-2011 HIGHLIGHTS
Preparing Every Student for Success in College, Career and Life.

BIOSCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL EARNED AN EXCELLENT LABEL, NORTH HIGH WAS HIGHLY PERFORMING and eight of 14 Phoenix Union schools received State Achievement Profiles of Performing Plus or better, according to 2010 Arizona Department of Education accountability labels. Every school was at least Performing.

CLASS OF 2011 SENIORS WERE OFFERED OVER $24 MILLION IN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS, $10 million more than in 2010. Students earned millions more in grants and financial aid.


PHOENIX UNION WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF SIX DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REIL (Rewarding Excellence in Instruction & Leadership) Grant with Maricopa County Education Service Agency, developing new evaluations for teachers and administrators based, in part on student performance and improvement.

PHOENIX UNION WAS AWarded A $1.6 MILLION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT to improve the quality of teaching American history. Phoenix Union’s project, entitled Colonial to Centennial: American & Arizona History will integrate the colonial and territorial history of the southwest with traditional American history and will tie U.S. History teachers and classes to the Arizona Centennial plans.

CENTRAL BECAME ARIZONA’S FIRST CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, adopting the rigorous Cambridge Curriculum, which will be offered in most freshman and sophomore classes in 2011-2012.

UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE International Examinations
CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE

FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW, EVERY JUNIOR IN THE DISTRICT WAS OFFERED THE ACT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM FOR FREE. Over 5,000 juniors took advantage of the opportunity in April.

CARL HAYDEN ROBOTICS WON THE ARIZONA FIRST ROBOTICS COMPETITION (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in March, earning a trip to the Internationals in April. They were also featured on a CNN documentary in May about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education.

THE PHOENIX UNION FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION GAVE $128,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS benefitting 71 students, the most in a single year. The Foundation also reached $100,000 in an endowment fund.

BETTY FAIRFAX WAS APPROVED AS AN INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE WORLD SCHOOL, the second school in the District to offer the IB Diploma Programme next school year.

THE PHOENIX UNION FOUNDATION for EDUCATION
FERNANDO CHAVEZ, a junior at Maryvale High School was selected to the United States House of Representatives Page Program. He was nominated by Arizona’s 4th Congressional District Representative Ed Pastor as one of approximately 72 pages working for the 435 House Members September-January.


CENTRAL HAD TWO NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMMENDED STUDENTS, Emily Hunting and Allison Speissegger. North’s Aleksandra Schriber was named a National Merit Scholarship Corporation Commended student, and Arlene Jimenez, Wendy Sanchez and Colin Madrid were recognized as National Merit Hispanic Recognition Scholars.

BIOSCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL’S CLARA RIDDICK AND METRO TECH’S JORGE CALDERON WERE THE FIRST-EVER GATES MILLENIUM SCHOLARS FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS. The prestigious scholarship is valued at $250,000 from undergraduate through doctoral programs.

TREVOR BROWNE’S DANIEL MONARREZ WAS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY in New Britain, Conn. with a $360,000 four-year scholarship.

SIX NORTH HIGH STUDENTS FINISHED IN THE TOP TEN OF THEIR RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS IN THE NATIONAL FRENCH EXAMS in March, out of over 99,000 students nationwide.

ALHAMBRA WON ITS SECOND CONSECUTIVE 5A DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BOYS CROSS COUNTRY in November, and the third state title in four years.

The Carl Hayden Rifle Team, led by Chris Garcia, who placed 8th overall in the individual standings, placed 6th in the nation at the U.S. Army Junior Air Rifle Championship in Georgia.

CESAR CHAVEZ STUDENTS ANTONIO HERNANDEZ AND DIEGO VAZQUEZ, (CLASS OF 2010) VISITED THE WHITE HOUSE TO MEET PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA to kick off a week of science celebration in Washington, D.C. in October. The two were part of the Cesar Chavez High School team that earned an innovation grant from the MIT and invented a physical therapy chair for the physically disabled last year. Vazquez was later invited to the State of the Union Address in January, and sat in First Lady Michelle Obama’s guest box.

BETTY FAIRFAX, in only its second year of varsity sports, won a 5A DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BOYS BASKETBALL IN MARCH.
CESAR CHAVEZ, SOUTH MOUNTAIN AND CAMELBACK QUALIFIED FOR THE 40-TEAM STATE ARIZONA DECATHLON IN MARCH. Cesar Chavez led the contingent into State, winning the Region II competition for the second consecutive year, with South Mountain placing second, and Camelback 8th in the 24-team regional. Chavez’ nine team members earned $2000 per year scholarships from ASU for the victory. At State, Chavez was 7th, tying its best finish in five trips to the event. South was 12th, appearing at State for the 20th time in 21 years. The highlight was the Jaguars’ second-place finish in the Super Quiz Relay.

SEVEN PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR ROTC UNITS EARNED HONOR UNIT WITH DISTINCTION, the highest designation given by the U.S. Army after inspections conducted earlier this month. Only three out of ten units nationally earn the Gold Star. The Gold Star units are Alhambra, Trevor Browne, Carl Hayden, Betty Fairfax, Maryvale, North and Metro Tech. The District has JROTC units at all 11 comprehensive campuses, and some 1600 students.

PHOENIX UNION STUDENTS WON 57 OF THE 70 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED THIS YEAR AT THE FRIENDLY HOUSE RECOGNITION of excellence Scholarship Awards dinner in February. The scholarships are $1000. Trevor Browne High School led the way with a total of 21 recipients, and was featured in a video that was shown at the awards dinner.

THE AVID (ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION) PROGRAM AT FAIRFAulk was one of 15 schools out of 4,554 world-wide to be spotlighted in AVID’s annual Year in Review publication. THE MARYVALE DANCE COMPANY DANCED ITS WAY TO A RATING OF “SUPERIOR WITH DISTINCTION” in all three judged categories: Choreography, Technique and Performance at the Arizona State Dance Festival in February.

SUNS-DIAMONDBACKS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION at 2920 N. 7th Street, one block north of Thomas Road. Suns-Diamondbacks outgrew its old location as over 200 students now attend the alternative small school that specializes in accelerated, personalized instruction for students at risk of dropping out.

THE MARYVALE CHEER TEAM WON FIRST PRIZE IN THE FIESTA BOWL CHEER COMPETITION and was selected to march in the bowl parade on December 31. The cheerleaders were also selected to perform at a luncheon hosted by the NFL.

TREVOR BROWNE STUDENT ARMANDO MARTINEZ WON THE VALLEY METRO BUS WRAP CONTEST, designing the winning artwork which will be displayed on a bus for one year. Martinez’ artwork was chosen out of 125 entries from high schools across the Valley.

THE ALHAMBRA CHESS TEAM PLACED 5TH IN THE AIA STATE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP, November 5-6, the school’s highest finish ever. The Lions, which have advanced to the State Tournament seven of the last eight years, won their Region a week earlier and was one of 16 teams to compete in the State Championship.

BIOSCIENCES HIGH SCHOOL’S CAMPUS WAS COMPLETED with the restoration of the original McKinley School and construction of an adjacent building to house a Medical Sciences school. The City of Phoenix provided a $2.4 million Small Schools grant to fund the project.

ALLYSON MARCOTTE OF CARL HAYDEN AND CATHERINE BARRETT OF NORTH Earned Master Teacher Mentor/Coach through the Arizona K-12 Center. The District has 10 Master Teachers.

ANGEL MARTINEZ-GRANADOS PRODUCED A VIDEO DOCUMENTARY FOR C-SPAN’S STUDENT-CAM CONTEST and was one of 75 winners in the nationwide competition that had 1,069 entries.

THE MARYVALE DANCE COMPANY DANCED ITS WAY TO A RATING OF “SUPERIOR WITH DISTINCTION” in all three judged categories: Choreography, Technique and Performance at the Arizona State Dance Festival in February.
CAMELBACK G.E.A.R.S STUDENTS MARIA FUENTES, SANDRA QUIROZ AND JONATHAN OLMOS WON A GOLD MEDAL in Automated Manufacturing Technology at the State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skill competition in April.

THE TREVOR BROWNE JROTC RATTLER TEAM WON THE STATE JROTC ADVENTURE TEAM COMPETITION for the third consecutive year, beating second place Flowing Wells, and third place North High. The team participated in events that involved both physical and mental challenges in two stages - a wilderness stage and a fitness challenge.

ALHAMBRA SENIOR KENDRICK FREELAND WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF FOUR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS OF THE YEAR at the Phoenix Indian Center Native Recognition Days banquet in November.

MARYVALE’S SELINA ALONZO AND SOUTH MOUNTAIN’S GUADALUPE MEZA WERE SELECTED AS A 2010 CHICANOS POR LA CAUSA AND SRP ESPERANZA AWARD WINNERS, honoring Latino teachers who inspire students of all backgrounds, play an active role in the school, and demonstrate a true commitment to the community.

ENGLISH TEACHER STEPHANIE KIPP AND SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITATOR KRISTEN WHERTY BECAME THE FIRST NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS FOR TREVOR BROWNE. They joined Juan Du of South Mountain as the newest National Board Certified Teachers for Phoenix Union High School District. The District now has 24 National Board Certified Teachers.

CAMELBACK WAS AWARDED THE 2010-2011 LEAD AND INSPIRE AWARD, Urban High School Division. The award is presented by the Options For Excellence Program, which is part of ASU’s Office of Education partnerships. Camelback is being recognized for the efforts of teachers and staff in building and strengthening student achievement by the programs they have helped to design.

CAMELBACK HIGH SCHOOL AND ITS PRINCIPAL DR. CHAD GESTSON GAINED THE ATTENTION OF SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERSARIZONA, a partnership of philanthropists that will leverage non-profits and invest time, talent and up to $20,000 per year for five years.

FOR THE FIRST TIME, STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO APPLY FOR A PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL ON-LINE, including selecting magnet programs, small specialty schools or any other school in the District through an Open Enrollment application.

MAY 20, 2011 ELECTION BROUGHT THE GOVERNING BOARD THREE NEW MEMBERS - Ricardo Gallego, Laura Pastor and Randy Schiller. Linda Abril was elected board president in January.

LONGTIME PHOENIX UNION EDUCATOR AND COMMUNITY ICON, BETTY FAIRFAX DIED IN NOVEMBER. Fairfax taught and counseled at Carver, Phoenix Union HS and Central for 57 years.

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A FORMER PHOENIX UNION GRADUATE FROM CENTRAL HIGH IS NOW A GRAMMY AWARD WINNER. Dom Flemons, who graduated from Central in 2000, is a member of the Carolina Chocolate Drops, which won a Grammy, February 13, for Best American Folk Album for their 2010 album, Genuine Negro Jig.