Phoenix Union High School District

Preparing Every Student for Success in College, Career, and Life.

PUHSD Highlights 11-12

- Fredi Lajvardi, Carl Hayden Science teacher and robotics coach was awarded an Honorable Mention for the DiscoverE Educator Award by the National Engineers Week Foundation and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He was selected among educators from all over the country for his dedication in transforming student achievement through engineering in grades 6-12.

- Cesar Chavez finished state runners up in the Division I Boys Basketball, falling in the championship game. It was the second time in three years that Chavez has played in the title game. The Champions finished the season 27-6.

- Maryvale dancers earned ratings of “Superior with Distinction” in all three categories of adjudication, including choreography, technique and performance at the Arizona State Dance Festival.

- Former Carl Hayden graduate Dulce Matuz was named one of Time Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World for her advocacy for the DREAM Act, legislation that would provide a path to legalization for undocumented students brought to this country as minors. Matuz became involved in the school’s Robotics program, and attended ASU where she earned an electrical engineering degree. She is now president of the Arizona Dream Act Coalition.

- Central Speech and Debate was the winner of the Arizona District Central Speech and Debate was the winner of the Arizona District

- For the first time, freshmen and sophomores took the ACT College Exam taken by all juniors. Frosted for students who delayed entry into college.

- In the most recent report, 2,225 PUHSD graduates entered an Arizona college or university in the semester after high school graduation in 2010, an increase of 365 more than 2009 and 505 more than 2008. This does not include out-of-state, or private school graduation in 2010, an increase of 365 more than 2009 and 505 more than 2008. This does not include out-of-state, or private

- Six PUHSD schools - Central, Metro Tech, North, Bioscience, and Trevor Browne were cited as Bronze Schools, by U.S. News and World Report Magazine which looked at almost 22,000 high schools nationally, and ranked the schools based on state proficiency standards and how well prepared the students are for college. There were 500 Gold schools, about 1500 Silvers, and 2,869 Bronze.

- South Mountain’s Boys Soccer Coach Carlos Aguilar was named the Division II Section 3 Coach of the Year.

- Maryvale Athletic Director Dr. Wendy Travissoul was appointed as the Head Women’s Track Coach for the 2012 International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF) World Junior Track and Field Championships held in Barcelona, Spain in July 2012. The IAAF is the governing body for all track and field in the world.

- PUHSD 2011 Teacher of the Year, Dan Dodge of North, was one of five semifinalists for the Arizona Educational Foundation’s 2011 Arizona Teacher of the Year.

- The District developed a new website into its communication efforts.

- Alhambra teacher Ryan Adney was featured on CBS Sunday Morning, using his collection of typewriters to teach writing to students.

- The Phoenix Union Foundation for Education awarded scholarships in 2012 totaling $67,400 to 64 District seniors to further their education. Its endowed fund reached $100,000.

- Maryvale Boys Soccer Coach Abel Hoyos was named the Division I Boys Soccer Coach of the Year. Hoyos led the Panthers to the State Tournament, and were top-ranked, before being upset in the second round.

- Cesar Chavez sophomore Dajour Reece won a State Championship in Wrestling in the 113 lb. weight class. He won five matches, and completed his season with a 40-4 match record. Efrén Hernandez of Carl Hayden finished runner up in the 126-weight class.

- Enrollment in 2011-12 increased 742 students, attended 1,120 classes that were Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.

- Central and Metro Tech piloted the Move On When Ready program that provides a new pathway to high school graduation and college-readiness through rigorous core curriculum and board examinations.

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- For the first time, freshmen and sophomores took the ACT EXPLORE and ACT PLAN, new tests that lead into the ACT College Exam taken by all juniors.

- Superintendents were named Gates Millennium Scholars, tying the most ever in one year for the District since the Gates Foundation established the grant in 1999. Fernando Chavez of Maryvale; Jesus He of Cesar Chavez; Balmis Lopez of Carl Hayden; Juan Mora of Trevor Browne and John Parker of Betty Fairfax won the scholarships, which can be applied toward undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees and are valued at $250,000.

- North High was one of 14 Arizona schools that made The Washington Post’s 2011 High School Challenge, which identifies the most challenging schools based on how effectively a school prepares its students for college.

- Metro Tech and Bioscience High Schools were recognized as two of Arizona’s Higher Performing Schools by the National Center for Educational Achievement.

- Five PUHSD seniors were named Gates Millennium Scholars, tying the most ever in one year for the District since the Gates Foundation established the grant in 1999. Fernando Chavez of Maryvale; Jesus He of Cesar Chavez; Balmis Lopez of Carl Hayden; Juan Mora of Trevor Browne and John Parker of Betty Fairfax won the scholarships, which can be applied toward undergraduate, graduate and doctoral degrees and are valued at $250,000.

- North High’s Steve Jozef was a 2012 Flinn Foundation Scholar. Of the 550 Arizona students who applied, 22 were awarded to students who will attend state universities.

- Steve Alley became the first National Merit Semiinalist from Bioscience joining North’s Andrew Hershfeldt and Steve Jozef who qualified by being among the highest-scoring entrants in Arizona in the 2010 PSAT.

- Academic Rigor continued to increase in 2011-2012, as 10,589 students attended 1,120 classes that were Honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.

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- Six PUHSD schools - Central, Metro Tech, North, Bioscience, and Trevor Browne were cited as Bronze Schools, by U.S. News and World Report Magazine which looked at almost 22,000 high schools nationally, and ranked the schools based on state proficiency standards and how well prepared the students are for college. There were 500 Gold schools, about 1500 Silvers, and 2,869 Bronze.
A record five PUHSD schools qualified for the 49-school State Academic Decathlon in March: South Mountain, Cesar Chavez, Maryvale, Betty Fairways and Trevor Browne. South Mountain led the contingent into the national competition in May, winning the Region 11 competition with Chavez placing second.

Voters approved a $230 million bond in November to meet the construction and renovation needs for the next seven years; much of the bond will be for facility maintenance projects.

Phoenix Union High School District joined forces with Phoenix College and the City of Phoenix in a partnership called "Success Highways," and a community closet, providing access to a food bank, medical/dental services and community development specialist for small schools Suns-Tech is the education arm of NBC News. The partnership is funded by a $600,000 four-year grant from the Lumina Foundation. The project includes a multi-media collection of over 12,000 videos, documents and images from school history that Alhambra DECA has won a national award.

Central Student Government achieved Council of Distinction for the 2012 Arizona Association of Student Councils Convention in February. To attain this honor, a council must work the entire year and document a variety of projects such as community service and campus activities. Only eight other councils in the entire state were awarded this honor.

The Trevor Browne JROTC Adventure team has won the state title for the fourth year in a row, and fifth in the last six years. The Bruin cadets also won the State Drill Team Championships, beating 23 teams from Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines JROTC units.

Staple: (JROTC) continues to grow, with 1,910 students serving locally grown, organic foods. The online contest was one of only two schools in the nation to win two national DECA Aspire Higher awards. DECA is a student marketing and entrepreneurship organization. This is the first time in school history that Alhambra DECA has won a national award.

The Phoenix Union Governing Board underwent a redistricting process for its five governing board election wards, and adopted a new map in March which was sent to the Department of Justice for approval. The map is a reconfiguring of the board’s current map based on 2010 population census data, but will not be in effect until 2014 ward elections.

The classes vary by campus, but Evening School earning a postsecondary credential during a six-year period.

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