



COOLIDGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 21

450 N. Arizona Boulevard
Coolidge, Arizona 85128

For Immediate Release

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Dr. Cecilia Johnson, Superintendent of Coolidge Unified School District announced that Heartland Ranch Elementary School, West Elementary School, San Tan Heights Elementary School, Hohokam Middle School and Mountain Vista Middle School earned accreditation from the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), an accreditation division of AdvancED. This action was taken at the AdvancED Accreditation Commission meeting held in Washington DC on June 23, 2012.

NCA CASI provides nationally-recognized accreditation, the purpose of which is continuous school improvement focused on increasing student performance. To earn accreditation, schools must meet NCA CASI's high standards, be evaluated by a team of professionals from outside the school, and implement a continuous process of school improvement.

"Accreditation demonstrates to our students, parents, and community that we are focused on raising student achievement, providing a safe and enriching learning environment, and maintaining an efficient and effective operation staffed by highly qualified educators," stated Dr. Johnson.

The District's two high schools were already accredited – San Tan Foothills High in 2009 and Coolidge High in 2010. With the completion of the accreditation of the elementary and middle schools, Coolidge Unified School District now has all-accredited schools.

NCA CASI accreditation is recognized across state lines, which not only eases the transfer process as students move from accredited school to accredited school but also assures parents that the school is meeting nationally accepted standards for quality and successful professional practice.

Dr. Mark Elgart, President/CEO of AdvancED, the parent organization of NCA CASI, stated, "NCA CASI Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school on the primary goal of creating lifelong learners. The District's Elementary and Middle Schools are to be commended for engaging in this process and demonstrating a commitment to continuous improvement."

Parents and interested community members can learn more about accreditation at www.advanc-ed.org.