



National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

For Immediate Release

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CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS ARE 5% OF HIGH SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, BUT 18% OF THE TOP 100 HIGH SCHOOLS, ACCORDING TO U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SURVEY

(Washington D.C. 12/5/08) – Eighteen public charter schools are among the country's top 100 high schools, despite constituting 5% of schools nationwide, according to a comprehensive survey released today by U.S. News and World Reports, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools announced today.

The rankings will appear in editions of U.S. News and World Reports published this coming Monday, December 8. It is available on-line at <http://www.usnews.com/sections/education/high-schools/index.html>.

Begun as an innovative educational reform less than 20 years ago, public charter schools have grown to enroll 1.3 million students in 40 states and the District of Columbia, yet constitute only 5% of all public high school enrollment.

“Charter schools are given the freedom to innovate and held accountable for results, and the over-representation of charter schools on this list of the 100 top high schools in America clearly shows that these principles are producing results and making a difference in students’ lives,” said National Alliance for Public Charter Schools President and CEO Nelson Smith. We congratulate them all for this outstanding recognition.”

The 18 charter schools among the top 100 high schools in the nation – earning U.S. News “Gold Medal” – and their ranking are:

- Pacific Collegiate Charter - Santa Cruz, CA (3)

- Preuss School UCSD - La Jolla, CA (8)
- BASIS Tucson - Tucson, AZ (13)
- Ridgeview Classical - Fort Collins, CO (15)
- Ben Franklin Senior High - New Orleans, LA (16)
- Idea College Prep - Donna, TX (19)
- Raleigh Charter High - Raleigh, NC (20)
- Lennox Mathematics Science and Technology Academy - Lennox, CA (21)
- Charter School of Wilmington - Wilmington, DE (42)
- University High Fresno County - Fresno, CA (45)
- YES College Prep - Houston, TX (52)
- Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High - Los Angeles, CA (53)
- Northland Preparatory Academy - Flagstaff, AZ (59)
- Signature School - Evansville, IN (68)
- Peak to Peak Charter School - Lafayette, CO (69)
- Hawthorne Math and Science Academy - Hawthorne, CA (70)
- Animo Leadership High - Inglewood, CA (94)
- Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy Kootenai County, ID (97)

Study Methodology

According to U.S News, the survey's methodology was developed by Standard and Poor's education research firm School Evaluation Service. The survey analyzed data from the 2006-2007 school year for 21,069 public high schools in 48 states using a three-step process based on student achievement and improvement-over-time according to state proficiency standards and the schools' success in preparing students for college-level work. More details on the methodology is available at <http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/high-schools/2008/12/04/americas-best-high-schools-methodology.html>

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The National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (www.publiccharters.org) is the national nonprofit organization committed to advancing the charter school movement. The Alliance works to increase the number of high performing charter schools available to all families, particularly low-income and minority families who currently do not have access to quality public schools. The Alliance provides assistance to state charter school associations and resource centers, develops and advocates for improved public policies, and serves as the united voice for this large and diverse movement.