
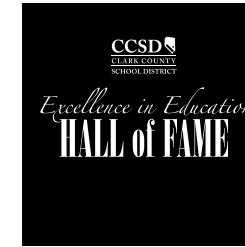
A decorative graphic of a vine with leaves and a circular wreath-like element, rendered in shades of gray, framing the central text.

CCSD 
CLARK COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Excellence in Education
HALL of FAME

Recognition Ceremony
Thursday, November 20, 2008



Board of School Trustees

Mary Beth Scow, President

Terri Janison, Vice President

Carolyn Edwards, Clerk

Shirley Barber, Member

Ruth L. Johnson, Member

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Dr. Walt Rulffes, Superintendent

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Kaweeda Adams, Director, Instruction Unit

Richard M. Knoepfel, Teacher, Advanced Technologies Academy

Eva Melendrez, Coordinator, Parent Services

Ron Montoya, Principal, Valley High School

Erin Reid, Nevada Parent Teacher Association

2008 Recipients

Advanced Placement Program at Clark High School

Dr. Jeffrey Geihs

Principal, Cheyenne High School

International Baccalaureate Program at Valley High School

Donna Minser

Teacher, Coronado High School

Parents As Academic Leaders (PAALS)

East Region

Lisa Primas

Principal, Paul Culley Empowerment School

Mary Beth Scow

Clark County School District Trustee, District A

Karyn Wright

Director, Teacher Induction and Mentoring



Advanced Placement Program at Clark High School

In 2004, the staff of Ed W. Clark High School began to expand access to Advanced Placement classes for underserved students through their Challenge and Advancement Via Individual Determination programs. Clark High School staff reached out to students who had proven work ethics, as evidenced by their GPA, but for whatever reasons, had not been recommended by teachers or counselors to participate in Honors and Advanced Placement classes. Any student who wished to attempt those classes needed to have a 2.5 grade point average and a willingness to challenge themselves academically. In return, the program leaders agreed to give these students extra support to help them succeed. After four years, the program has grown from 13 students to more than 200 students. The Advanced Placement Expansion Program at Clark High School has been recognized by the National Governors Association, and has received the Siemens Award, as well as the "Silver Medal" from U.S. News and World Report. Additionally, Clark High School has made its Annual Yearly Progress for the 2007-2008 school year, and students' scores on the Nevada State Proficiency Exam have risen across the board. Perhaps the greatest academic impact has been for the population of special education students. Because of increased inclusion in classroom activities and expectations, students with Individual Education Plans have seen their ELA test scores rise from 40.9 percent to 76 percent in a single school year. Pride in this team accomplishment has increased school spirit throughout the Clark High School community.



Dr. Jeffrey Geihs *Principal, Cheyenne High School, CCSD*

When it comes to advancing student achievement, Dr. Jeff Geihs is one of the outstanding leaders in the Clark County School District. During his four-year tenure as principal of Cheyenne High School, Dr. Geihs has implemented programs that require all freshmen to fine-tune core curriculum skills in an effort to increase academic success. Each year, incoming freshmen are enrolled in double-blocked Algebra classes, mandatory reading classes, as well as additional performing arts classes to ensure that students find their confidence and their place as members of the Cheyenne High School Desert Shields. To be more competitive in the emerging global market, Dr. Geihs has implemented Mandarin Chinese as a course offering. Under Dr. Geihs' leadership, the number of Advanced Placement and Honors level courses has increased by 160 percent. With the recent undertaking of becoming an Empowerment School principal, Dr. Geihs pledges that Cheyenne High School students will not have to pay course fees associated with elective classes, and for students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes, the fees for Advanced Placement examinations will be waived. Dr. Geihs' passion for improved student achievement leads him to seek the necessary funding that aligns the behavior and academic goals of Cheyenne High School with feeder elementary and middle schools in an effort to continue a legacy of success for future Cheyenne High School students.

International Baccalaureate Program at Valley High School

Valley High School has been an authorized International Baccalaureate World School since 1979. In that time, the International Baccalaureate program has grown from serving only a small number of zoned students, to a robust magnet school with more than 350 students from across Clark County participating in one of the most rigorous high school curriculums available. Nothing an "IB" student learns occurs in a vacuum. There is no picking or choosing strengths in this program. IB students study literature, language, art, and history from all over the world; they engage in hundreds of hours of community service, and must complete two major projects to showcase what they have learned in their years of study in the International Baccalaureate program. Projects include performances, charitable events, formal research papers, and represent intellectual and artistic achievement seldom seen at a traditional high schools. Students in the IB program currently boast a 100 percent high school graduation rate, an average SAT score approximately 400 points above the national average, and a 98 percent college graduation rate. But perhaps the best testament to the success of the program is that—of the six International Baccalaureate subject exams taken by IB students at the end of the program—students' scores now exceed the world average in four subjects, including literature, foreign language, and advanced mathematics.

Donna Minser *Teacher, Coronado High School, CCSD*

When it comes to a life dedicated to serving students, Donna Minser leads by example. Ms. Minser has been involved in education and athletics in the Clark County School District for more than 30 years. Ms. Minser has served as a mathematics teacher, department chair, cheer leading coach, and athletic director. Since her first year teaching at Washington Opportunity School, Ms. Minser has held her students to high standards. She has brought passion and energy to her classroom, and spent countless hours working to ensure that every child she taught received an excellent education. An exemplary role model to her students and colleagues, Ms. Minser's commitment to excellence drove her to receive accreditation as a Certified Master Athletic Administrator, the highest level of certification awarded by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. Ms. Minser uses her extensive knowledge and understanding of the Clark County School District and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association rules and regulations to communicate effectively with coaches, staff members, student-athletes, and parents regarding athletic issues. She shares her enthusiasm and passion for both education and athletics as the means to inspire her students to achieve more than they thought possible. One parent credited Ms. Minser for helping her daughter's recent success in her Algebra II/ Trigonometry class, describing Ms. Minser's level of patience as incredible and genuine. Although Donna Minser retired after teaching 30 years in Clark County, she recently renewed her dedication and love of teaching by returning to Coronado High School where she currently serves as a math teacher and volunteer.





Parents As Academic Leaders (PAALS)

East Region

The Parents As Academic Leaders (PAALS) program encourages and models the importance of parent engagement in the academic success of all students. PAALS was created four years ago with a strong belief that parents who are empowered and knowledgeable will embrace a leadership role to foster their community school in reaching academic goals. Understanding that a parent is a child's first teacher, the PAALS program provides participants with the information needed to understand the rules that govern No Child Left Behind legislation, how the accountability system affects schools and students, and what is needed to improve school performance. PAALS is dedicated to raising the level of awareness for parents and family members by focusing monthly meetings on classes that align with the academic goals established by the East Region of the Clark County School District. Through the program, parents also participate in field trips to Nevada State College and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where they discover programs and resources available for higher education. The PAALS program empowers parents to solicit community services and agencies to better themselves and their children in becoming independent, productive citizens, and leaders.



Lisa Primas

Principal, Paul Culley Empowerment School

Lisa Primas incorporates stakeholders from every aspect of the school community – parents, community members, business leaders, teachers, support staff, and most importantly, students – into a team of individuals focused on one common goal, student success. Ms. Primas' vision of leaving no child behind has led to dynamic student achievement, parent satisfaction, and lower neighborhood crime rates, despite working in a neighborhood with a high rate of second language learners, transiency, gang activity, child abuse, homelessness, and single-parent families. Since becoming principal at Paul Culley Empowerment Elementary School in 2006, Lisa Primas has empowered her staff and community by opening the doors of the school, welcoming parents and their children as well as the seniors who live in the neighborhood. Today, the school serves as a center of service to the community, providing resources to parents through training in academics, health care, and other issues in the community. Parents are able to attend adult literacy classes in both English and Spanish and spend two days a week with their children learning how to advance their child's academic progress. Through Mrs. Primas' vision and dedication to providing resources to an underserved community, Paul Culley Empowerment Elementary School was recently designated a High Achieving school under the guidelines of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Mary Beth Scow

Clark County School District Trustee, District A

Through strong leadership and clear vision, Clark County School District students will be prepared for the world of higher education and successful careers – this is the corner stone of Mary Beth Scow's dedication to the community she serves. Mrs. Scow served as a parent volunteer, education supporter and child advocate in Clark County for more than 20 years. In 1996, she was elected to the Clark County Board of School Trustees, serving two terms as president. She spent countless hours attending and enjoying school functions, reading and speaking to students and their parents, and representing and advocating for the Clark County School District on critical issues related to education. Mrs. Scow has demonstrated her leadership through the implementation of Policy Governance, ISO Standards and Certification, and the development of an audit committee that works to ensure that the District operates efficiently and effectively for all stakeholders. As a Trustee for the Clark County School District, Mrs. Scow has worked to support the academic achievement of Clark County's children and ensure the accountability of individuals at every level of education.

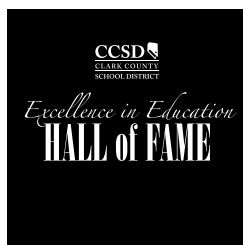


Karyn Wright

Director, Teacher Induction and Mentoring

Karyn Wright is a leader with the talent to rally those around her. In her 29 years of experience as a professional educator, Ms. Wright has been a teacher, curriculum and staff development facilitator, assistant principal, director of pre-service and new teacher development, district lobbyist, and is currently the director of new teacher induction and mentoring. Ms. Wright has embraced the unprecedented growth of the Clark County School District by ensuring that newly hired licensed and pre-service professionals have the professional development and support needed to positively affect their students' academic achievement. Under Ms. Wright's leadership, the New Teacher Induction Program has been instrumental in improving the retention rate of new teachers in the Clark County School District. Through the creation of the New Teacher Training Cadre, Ms. Wright saw the opportunities that could occur when exemplary classroom teachers were encouraged to assume leadership roles. This cadre was the first of its kind offered to classroom-based teachers in the District and provided classroom teachers the opportunity to share their expertise by facilitating training for newly hired teachers. As a result, many more students across the Clark County School District have benefited from the shared expertise of dynamic, experienced teachers. Karyn Wright's passion for innovation and education is demonstrated in the positive impact on the lives of students, staff, and the community.





In 1987, the Board of School Trustees approved the establishment of an Excellence in Education Hall of Fame display. This beautiful display, which is now mounted on the walls of the Education Center foyer, is designed to permanently recognize individuals, departments, and schools for their extraordinary contributions to the district's educational endeavors.

Listed are the individuals, schools, and departments recognized for this honor and the year they were inducted.

1988-1989

J. Marlan Walker
Williams Evans
Richard Pursel
Helen C. Cannon Junior HS
Harvey Dondero
Rancho HS Air Force
JROTC Program
Edward J. Kane
Las Vegas High School
Elton Garrett
Edward A. Greer
Kenny C. Guinn Junior HS
Thurman White
Joan C. Turner
Virgil A. Sestini

1989-1990

Gary BeDunnah
James Schlude
Armida Lopez-Brown
Kay Samolovitch
Sunset High School
Louis J. Silvestri
Karyn K. Durbin
Scott G. Reynolds
Basic HS Marine JROTC
Gary A. Pearson
Cathy Smith

1990-1991

Seigle Diagnostic
Classroom Program
Helping You, Helping Me,
Tutoring Program
Shirley Barber
Variety School for the
Handicapped
Health Occupations Program
Kay Carl
Monte Littell
George Von Tobel
Mr. Vee Wilson
Walter Bracken ES /
Dr. Bernard Hamilton
Valley HS At-Risk Discipline
& Attendance Program

1991-1992

Frank Brusa
Ina L. Dorman
Varsity Quiz
Mervin R. Iverson
Pamela H. Moats
Kiwanis Club of Las Vegas
Lee Diane Gordon
Randy DeLelles

1992-1993

Marshall C. Darnell
Mike Edwards
Alfred Gourrier
John Snyder
School-Community
Partnership Program
Frederic W. Watson
Fenton Tobler
Steven Weiner
Assistance League of Las Vegas

1993-1994

95 PTA Units - Lake Mead Council,
Rainbow Council, &
Sunset Council
Carol Ross
Karen Parker
Frank Lamping
Ellen Ebert
Ms. Elise Ax
PACE (Parents Accelerating
Children's Education)

1994-1995

Judy Cameron
Carroll Johnston
Ray Mitchell
Bobbie Poole
C. Owen Roundy
Pam Salazar
Margaret Wilgar
Edythe Katz Yarchever

1995-1996

City Of The World, Roz Knight
Dorothy Eisenberg
Focus School Project
Geographic Alliance In Nevada
Diane Koutsulis
One Collaborative
Leadership Council
Grant Sawyer MS Technology Dept
Eva G. Simmons
John Wood

1996-1997

Kermit R. Booker,
Parent/Teacher Village
Jenny DesVaux Oakes
Foreign Language In The
Elementary Schools (FLES)
Stan Fuke
International Studies Program,
Las Vegas Academy
Patricia LaMonica
Marine Corps JROTC, Basic HS
Microcommunity System,
Paradise ES
Gene Nakanishi
Christopher Publow
William E. Snyder
Sunrise Children's Hospital
Foundation
William Clare Tobler

1997-1998

Kirk Kelly Adams
Class Act Live Arts in the Schools
Edna Rose Crane
Sidney J. Franklin
Charlotte Hill
Anthony and Renee Jones
Jacquelyn Moore
Ron Naftal
Operation School Bell
William E. Orr Middle School
Cultural Celebration
Robert C. Smith
Andrew Welch

1998-1999

Robert Bray
Don Curry
District G PAC Team
Louis Harris
Joan Hedrich
Michael Kinnaird
Jack V. Lazzarotto
The PAL Program
Jeri Roberts
Judi K. Steele

1999-2000

Academy for Mathematics,
Science, and Applied
Technology, Clark HS
David Boshko
Leonard DeJoria
Elementary Music Program
General Federation of
Women's Clubs Nevada
Robert Gerye
Scott Ginger
Gordon Hill
LeRoy Hurd
Anthony Lato, Jr.
Peace Week, Mahlon Brown JHS
Greta A. Peay
Preparation and Achievement for
Student Success, Silverado HS
Jim Przybylski
Aldeane Ries

Continued on following page

2000-2001

Cathy Andrews
Jeannette Bautista
Bechtel Nevada Corporation
Bridger Improvement Center
Linda Gregg
Quannah McCall – Jim Bridger
Reading Exchange Program
Louise O'Reilly, Flowers
at Palo Verde
Diane Orgill
Carol Rumbolz
Frances Saxton
Rodney Smith
Wayne Tanaka
Joan Taylor

2001-2002

Academy of Travel & Tourism
Air Force Junior ROTC
Kimberly Barclay-Drusedum
Boulder City Parks & Recreation
Global Lab
Gina Mason
Virginia Mills
Betty A. Sabo
"Space Station to Marsville"
T.R.A.C.S. Academy

2002-2003

Advanced Technologies Academy
Gary Colbert
Chanda Cook
Susan Corbett
Vicki Lee
McDonald Ranch Literary Guild
Miles for Smiles Dental
Outreach Program
100 Black Men Of America, Inc.
Mark and Colleen O'Neill
Thomas O'Roarke
Charla Ricketts
Michael Robison
Phyllis Seipel
Cheryl and Mike Souza
Sylvia Tegano

2003-2004

Dixie Bowler
George Breaz
Marjorie Conner
Las Vegas Sun Youth Forum
Louise Helton
"I Have A Dream" Foundation
Rodney Lee
Randy Pagel
Marc Rogers
Positive Impact Program –
St. Rose Dominican Hospitals
Tina Waldron

2004-2005

Susan Berry
Clark HS Academy of Finance
Clark HS Teacher
Education Academy
Jane Kadoich
Gary Kaempfer
Larry Moses
Yolanda Ramirez
Dode Worsham
Linda E. Young

2005-2006

Joseph Barry
Clark Challenge Program, Clark HS
Vanessa Peterson and Lori Merrell,
BCHS College & Career Center
Patricia Holland
Junior League of Las Vegas
Kiwanis Club of LV – Varsity Quiz
Wm McCool Science
Center, Lamping ES
Jessica Sellers
TeamAction VIP, Valley HS
Martha G. Tittle

2006-2007

Mike Barton
Boulder City HS Boosters
Executive Board
Maria D. Chavez
Rhonda Glyman
Charlene Green
Marsha Irvin
Richard M. Knoeppel
Lydia Lebovic
Mary Jo Malloy
Ron Montoya
Parents Charging with
Pride, Clark HS
Ralph Reynolds, UNLV

2007-2008

Advanced Placement Program
at Clark High School
Dr. Jeffrey Geihs
International Baccalaureate
Program at Valley High School
Donna Minser
Parents As Academic Leaders
(PAALS) – East Region
Lisa Primas
Mary Beth Scow
Karyn Wright

