

***For Immediate Release
David Roddy, (702) 799-5304***

September 17, 2009

Gray Elementary School receives Blue Ribbon designation
The school is one of only 314 in the nation to receive this honor

LAS VEGAS – R. Guild Gray Elementary School has been chosen as one of a select few schools in the nation to receive the coveted 2009 Blue Ribbon National School designation.

United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that only 314 schools - 264 public and 50 private - were named for the honor this year. The award recognizes schools that are either academically superior or have made dramatic gains in student achievement and helped close the gap in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students.

In order to be eligible for the Blue Ribbon designation, a school must: achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests and have at least 40 percent of its students from disadvantaged backgrounds that demonstrate dramatic improvement of student performance to high levels on state tests or nationally-normed tests. In addition, the school must meet the Adequate Yearly Progress component of the No Child Left Behind Act.

"The staff at Gray Elementary School is honored to have received such a prestigious award because we have worked incredibly hard to provide a strong and motivating academic atmosphere where doing what's best for students is our primary goal," said Principal Carl Johnson. "This accomplishment would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff and we are excited about representing the state of Nevada at the awards ceremony in November."

In addition to attending the awards ceremony, Johnson said that his school was one of only 12 that were chosen to be presenters and share their instructional strategies with others attending the ceremony in Washington D. C. on November 2.



CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE

R. Guild Gray Elementary School was named after the school district's first superintendent, who guided the district from its formation in 1956 to 1960. The school is located in the southwest portion of Las Vegas. Its student population closely reflects that of the entire district average for ethnicity and about 45 percent of its students qualify for the federal Free & Reduced Lunch program.

To learn more about Clark County School District events, visit www.ccsd.net.

###