

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School Administrators Celebrated for Leadership and Innovation

Phoenix, Arizona – December 3, 2009 – The Arizona School Administrators Association (ASA) is bestowing its highest recognition awards on three deserving district superintendents throughout the state. The awards will be presented during the Arizona School Boards Association/Arizona School Administrators Annual Conference at the Biltmore Conference Center on Thursday, December 10, 2009. Dr. Mark Tregaskes, ASA President believes, “The strength of our organization is in its leaders. With challenging educational times, now, more than ever, it is vital to recognize leaders who set the standard for educational excellence. We are very proud of their accomplishments on behalf of students, staff, families and the communities they serve.”

National Superintendent of the Year Arizona Representative

Selected to represent Arizona in the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year Program is Dr. Nicholas Clement, Superintendent of the Flowing Wells Unified School District since 2004. Dr. Clement has been guided by the principle of providing Core Values in building a learning community for the Flowing Wells District. These values include personalized learning, opportunities focused on a 24/7 schoolhouse and delivering exceptional customer service to the community. Clement has worked to provide district wide opportunities for all students by writing and receiving a \$4 million 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant to assist with quality after-school student and adult literacy programs to improve community learning opportunities. Dr. Clement uses his “out of the box thinking” and dedication to student achievement to contribute to the successes benefitting the students and schools in the Flowing Wells Unified School District.

All Arizona Superintendent Small Districts

Mr. Douglas Roe from Altar Valley School District is this year’s award winner for small school districts of fewer than 1,000 students. Roe has been superintendent of Altar Valley for 10 years and has exhibited quality leadership in the district throughout his tenure there. He is cited by his board for his excellent team building skills as well his implementation of a strong community relations program. Roe’s fiscal management and budget skills are also noted as strength areas in his leadership of this small district on the outskirts of Tucson. His academic leadership has resulted in both schools in the district receiving a” Performing Plus” achievement profile rating from the Arizona Department of Education.

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All Arizona Superintendent Medium Districts

This year's recipient for medium size districts is Dr. Ronald Dickson, Superintendent of Laveen Elementary School District. Dr. Dickson began his position in Laveen in 2005 and has been providing quality leadership for the district ever since. Dickson has moved the district from a rote learning, lecture based, instructional philosophy to an approach where active involvement in the learning process is the key to improved student achievement. Superintendent Dickson is cited for his quality communication with the Governing board and the fact that the Board received the prestigious ASBA Lou Ella Kleinz Award of Excellence in 2007 is evidence of this effort. Dr. Dickson's "3C's" model of communication, collaboration and cooperation has contributed greatly to moving Laveen Elementary District to its current status as a district moving in a positive direction to provide a quality educational experience for the community of Laveen and the students it serves so well.

All Arizona Superintendent Large Districts

The winner of Arizona School Administrators All Arizona Superintendent for large districts with a student population of over 5,000 students is Dr. Henry Schmitt from the Humboldt Unified School District in Prescott Valley, Arizona. He has served this district for 7 years during difficult fiscal times with numerous increase and decreases in student populations. His strengths include his leadership in student academic progress, excellent fiscal management and effective management of voter approved bond projects. Dr. Schmitt's excellent communication skills are also cited by board members. Superintendent Schmitt's leadership is noted in the statewide awards received for the district's English Language Learner and Special Education programs which have been awarded statewide recognition. The district and its students have truly benefited from his outstanding leadership.

For additional information about the individuals who received the awards, or the awards themselves, contact Roger Short, ASA Executive Director at rshort@azsa.org or visit the ASA website at www.azsa.org.

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The Arizona School Administrators is a non-profit organization whose members are K-12 public school administrators, which include district superintendents, business officers, curriculum directors, human resource administrators, facilities managers, food services managers, transportation directors and school site principals. ASA's membership spans the entire state and its 226 school districts. The mission of Arizona School Administrators is to promote and support educational excellence in school leadership.