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News Release

Pike and Longfellow Elementary Schools Win Top Title I Award

The Colorado Department of Education announced today the selection of Pike Elementary School and Longfellow Elementary School as Title I “Distinguished Schools” of the year.

Pike Elementary School is located in Colorado Springs School District 11; Longfellow Elementary School is in Salida School District R-32-J, in Salida.

The award recognizes two Title I schools—one that has achieved academic success, and one that made progress in closing achievement gaps associated with race and poverty.

Commissioner of Education, Dwight D. Jones will visit Pike Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 8 to present the school with a \$10,000 check to continue their efforts. A similar presentation will occur at Longfellow Elementary on Friday, Jan. 9. In addition, each school will receive a banner and glass plaque for display.

Both schools will be invited to send representatives to the National Title I conference, being held from Feb. 19—22, 2009 in San Antonio, TX. Registration, hotel and airfare for two staff members to attend the conference are part of the award package. Colorado’s distinguished schools will be honored at the event along with distinguished schools from around the country.

"These schools have put a lot of hard work and dedication into improving student achievement," said Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones. "Congratulations to the schools, staff and students on a job well done!"

Pike Elementary School was nominated for this award based on exceptional student performance for Title I students.

"The Pike staff feels honored to receive this award," said Principal Manuel Ramsey. "Our goal is to provide students with the best educational experience possible and it is wonderful to be recognized for helping students learn. Classroom teachers and support staff have worked collaboratively to focus efforts on the achievement of each student. Parents have become more involved in their child's education. Leadership in District 11 has kept the focus on student achievement. When you have the 'can do' attitude, align systems and provide accountability, great things happen for students."

With a poverty rate of 73 percent and a minority population of 38 percent, Pike Elementary School was the top Title I school in the state in overall achievement in reading and math. Pike exceeded the 2011-2012 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goal with 98.6 percent of its students proficient in reading and 100 percent proficiency in math.

Longfellow Elementary School won the award based on success closing the achievement gap between students eligible for free or reduced lunch and those not eligible.

Longfellow, which has a 61 percent poverty rate, increased the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch who were proficient in reading and math from 80 percent in 2006-2007 to 98.5 percent in 2007-2008. Longfellow decreased the gap between students eligible and students ineligible for free or reduced lunch by 16.7 percent.

"I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of Longfellow Elementary School students and staff and honored by the recognition bestowed upon our school," said Longfellow Principal Dan Estell. "I commend my staff for their efforts. They have worked to create a learning environment in which, through professional collaboration, they strive to meet the needs of all our students. "

In addition to these two outstanding schools, Colorado recognizes Roosevelt Edison Charter School in Colorado Springs District 11,

Greenwood Elementary in Denver Public Schools and Allendale and Foster Elementary Schools in Jefferson County Public Schools as Title I Honorable Mention Award recipients. These schools have exceeded the 2011-2012 AYP goals with 90 percent or more of their students proficient in reading and math.

For more information, contact Mark Stevens, 303-866-3898, or Megan McDermott, 303-866-2334, in the CDE Office of Communications. To sign up for the CDE e-mail news service, please visit <http://www.cde.state.co.us/Communications/index.html>.

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