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News Release

Commissioner Dwight D. Jones Encourages Online Support To Bring President Obama To Denver School Of Science And Technology For Commencement Speech

Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones today encouraged Coloradans to support the campaign by Denver School of Science And Technology (DSST) to land President Barack Obama as the main speaker for their commencement ceremony.

"Denver School of Science And Technology serves as a model of how to all students can be prepared for postsecondary success by setting high expectations," said Commissioner Jones. "DSST would be a stellar choice for the president and I strongly encourage Coloradans to take a few minutes to go online and support this terrific school."

DSST is one of six finalists in President Obama's High School Commencement Challenge. Public review and online voting of brief videos produced by each school begins today and runs through Thursday, April 29 at 10 p.m. (MDT).

Each video clip is accompanied by a brief essay. Visitors to the Web site (<http://WhiteHouse.gov/Commencement>) are encouraged to watch the six videos and read the essay questions before deciding on a rating from 1 to 5 (5 being the highest). Only one rating per finalist per IP address will be allowed.

Before being named one of six finalists, DSST completed an application that posed four essay questions that focused on how the school has

helped prepare students to meet the President's 2020 goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world.

Applications were judged based on the school's performance and dedication to providing students an excellent education that will prepare them to graduate ready for college and career choices. Each question had to include data that substantiated each answer.

DSST Highlights:

- For the third consecutive year, 100 percent of the senior class has been accepted into a four-year college or university. All 80 students of the class of 2010 have been admitted to at least one public institution of higher learning, duplicating the achievement of the students enrolled in DSST's first and second graduating classes (2008 and 2009). This is unprecedented for a public high school in Metro Denver.
- The Colorado Department of Education rated DSST a 2009 High Performing High School, the only one in Denver Public Schools and among only 18 in the state.
- For three years (2006—2009, DSST students had the highest median student growth in the state of Colorado.
- DSST's first and second graduating class (class of 2008 and 2009) has more minority and low income students attending four year colleges and universities than from any school in the state. Forty-percent of the class of 2009 were the first in their families to attend college.

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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