



For Immediate Release

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**National Distinguished Five Star School Principal Lucille Keaton named
assistant superintendent of English Language Learner Program**

Keaton brings proven strategies for English language learners in a diverse school district

LAS VEGAS - The Clark County School District (CCSD) has named Lucille Keaton to the position of Assistant Superintendent of the English Language Learner Program. Keaton comes to the position from Halle Hewetson Elementary School, a High-Achieving, Exemplary Turnaround School and an Exemplary Reward School that transformed 91 percent of students to math proficiency and 80 percent of third graders to met or exceeded reading standards. The school is more than 85 percent Hispanic and 100 percent of the students receive free or reduced price meals, yet it has met adequate yearly progress for five years in a row and has maintained high-achieving status for three consecutive years.

CCSD Superintendent Dwight D. Jones undertook an intensive interview process that included community and minority organization input to create academic success for all students in the fifth-largest school district in the nation. Upon completion and evaluation, Jones named Five Star School Principal Keaton to the position.

"Lucille Keaton has demonstrated that she can, in conjunction with our staff, close the education gap we so often see among English language learners," Jones said. "Lucille sets the same high bar for English language learners as she does for all other students - and she helps them reach it. I look forward to working with her to set a new vision to best serve the growing number of English language learners in our District."

A member of the community who participated in the process expressed his support for the experience. "I applaud this move by the District to recognize the changing demographics in Clark County schools. I was proud to serve the District in the process that ultimately led to the choice of the assistant superintendent of the English Language Learner Program," said Jose Melendrez, UNLV assistant vice president of the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

In a District with more than 53,000 active English language learners, Keaton will bring her collaborative style to administration, teachers, and students. Together they can work to create achievement for each child regardless of their language acquisition level. Keaton, who was born in Mexico City and was an English language learner herself, understands the need for innovative instruction to overcome learning difficulties and create language acquisition success. Pupils at her school were consistently demonstrating English language growth and able to exit the English

Language Learner program successfully at rapid rates.

"I am grateful for the opportunity that Superintendent Jones has given me to serve the District students and lead a team that will ensure our students receive the highest quality education no matter what their language of origin. As a native Spanish-speaker, this work is close to my heart and I understand the challenges first-hand that our students face. I truly believe that all students can achieve regardless of circumstance. I am an example of that," said Keaton.

Keaton was recently named a National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Her school was recognized as a National Title 1 Distinguished School, Exemplary Reward School and was on the National Honor Roll of High Performing Urban Schools. She has received many recognitions for educational excellence and was inducted into the Nevada Education Hall of Fame in 2011.

A 19-year veteran educator, Keaton began as a bilingual kindergarten teacher who made her way through various positions over the years to become a nationally-recognized principal and educator.

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