



For Immediate Release

October 18, 2012

Contact Anthony Springer, (702) 799-5304

Clark County School District wins accolades from U.S. Department of Education for family engagement efforts

Award includes funding for mental and physical health, family services

Las Vegas - The Clark County School District (CCSD) is honored to announce we are one of 24 organizations nationwide selected as *Together for Tomorrow (TFT) Challenge* winners. TFT is a joint initiative of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships together with the U.S. Department of Education and the Corporation for National and Community Service. CCSD is recognized for efforts in community-led partnerships to support struggling schools and for efforts to further improve the performance of its lowest performing schools.

The grant money will be directed to Project REACH (Raising Educational Attainment within Community Housing), a District project in partnership with Communities In Schools and the Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority. REACH provides holistic services that impact student development including access to basic healthcare services, proper nutrition and increased family involvement in education for students living in subsidized housing complexes in Clark County.

CCSD Superintendent Dwight D. Jones believes the grant will go a long way to support lasting changes in academic achievement in the District by addressing some factors that contribute to low academic performance, including hunger, health and family engagement.

"People don't always like to talk about the external factors that affect student achievement," Jones said. "We could have a phenomenal teacher in every classroom and five-star administrators in all of our schools, but if students come to school unhealthy, hungry, or distressed from a chaotic environment, our efforts to provide a quality education are significantly more difficult. The *Together for Tomorrow Challenge* grant allows us to address some of those needs."

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan echoed Jones' sentiments.

"When it comes to turning around low-performing schools, the Department's investments and the work of schools and districts are only part of the solution," said Duncan. "Our schools need

community engagement to support and sustain school improvement. The Together for Tomorrow Challenge winners we recognize today have made model commitments to help foster partnerships, propel school improvement, and produce better outcomes for students. To sustain change over the long haul, nothing is more important."

Communities In Schools of Nevada, a valuable CCSD partner welcomed the news. "I'm proud of the work this partnership has already accomplished, providing tutoring and wraparound services to students," said Communities In Schools of Nevada CEO Terri Clark. "This award acknowledges the potential that collaborations like REACH have to make a positive impact on student lives in the district."

The Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority mission includes improving educational outcomes for the residents they serve. John Hill, the SNRHA's executive director says the new grant will be able to expand the scope of existing services and begin a lasting process of changing lives in Clark County.

"We serve more than 14,000 households and over 40,000 family members," said Hill. "With everybody bringing resources to the table and pooling them with a streamlined approach, we can fill education gaps and increase the graduation rate. The way to break the cycle of poverty is through education."

Project REACH supports the District's overall mission to have every student "Ready by Exit" to compete in college or career without remediation by expanding services for families to include parent enrichment days, informational events and pairing high needs families with community resources. Students will also have increased access to credit retrieval courses and mental and physical health services, including treatments and preventative care.

#

*Office of the Superintendent - Communications Office - 5100 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas,
NV 89146*



Follow us on [Twitter](#)



Like us on [Facebook](#)