



NEWS RELEASE

17 ARIZONA SCHOOLS TO ADOPT NEW "MOVE ON WHEN READY" EDUCATION MODEL FOR GRADUATING STUDENTS COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READY

Arizona Community Foundation Investing \$50,000 in the Center for the Future of Arizona's Move On When Ready Learning Collaborative

PHOENIX (August 1, 2011) – The Center for the Future of Arizona has announced the names of 17 Arizona schools, which will be the first to adopt Move On When Ready, a new performance-based model for high school education designed to increase student academic achievement to national and international levels, and prepare all students for college and careers.

Fourteen schools will begin implementing the Move On When Ready initiative this fall. Three schools will begin implementation in fall 2012. The 17 schools are located in the cities of Phoenix, Scottsdale, Mesa, Tucson, Oro Valley, Yuma, Wickenburg, Glendale, Surprise and El Mirage.

The Arizona Community Foundation is providing \$50,000 from its John & Delys Ellis Fund to support the 17-school Move On When Ready Learning Collaborative, which CFA recently formed. Examples of how the funds may be used include bringing in experts to work collaboratively with the schools in areas of critical importance such as remediation, intervention, rigor and acceleration; hosting an early fall workshop with the 17 schools and other schools considering adopting Move On When Ready in fall 2012; and planning and developing communications to parents and students about Move On When Ready.

The role of CFA's Learning Collaborative is to facilitate communication and collaboration across schools; document activities, innovations, and alternate processes taking place in various school sites; and identify what promotes or hinders the planning and implementation process across all early adopter schools.

The Arizona State Board of Education previously selected the Center for the Future of Arizona to work directly with the schools to manage and oversee the state's Move On When Ready effort.

Move On When Ready's key components are the new, optional Grand Canyon High School Diploma plus comprehensive instructional systems, called board examination systems, such as Cambridge International Examinations and ACT QualityCore. They are already in use in many of the most successful educational systems in the world. They provide world-class teaching, course content and projects so that students can develop the knowledge and skills required for success in college and careers. They have been proven effective in preparing all students to high academic standards, not just the highest achieving students.

The vast majority of participating schools will implement the new, comprehensive instructional systems beginning with ninth grade. BASIS Schools and the Gary K. Herberger Young Scholars Academy will administer Cambridge International Examinations starting in eighth grade and seventh grade, respectively. The latter is a new school for gifted students at Arizona State University's West campus in Glendale.

(more)

"Most jobs now, and certainly in the future, that provide our workforce with income above the poverty line will require at least some type of postsecondary certification, or a college education. The economic data on this are clear," said Steven G. Seleznow, president and CEO of the Arizona Community Foundation. "Initiatives such as Move On When Ready are essential to increasing Arizona's high school graduation rates and preparing students to enter college ready to take college-level courses and fully prepared to succeed."

"The primary objective of Move On When Ready is to significantly enhance the proportion of Arizona high school students who graduate college- and career-ready," commented CFA Executive Director Sybil Francis. "Participating schools will focus more on demonstrated mastery of learning and less on seat time, to ensure that every student, not just the high-achieving student, reaches a minimum level of college-readiness that prepares them to succeed, whether their next step is an occupational or technical license, an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree."

Students who reach the required level of college- and career-readiness can choose to move on to one of several learning options. These include university-level courses offered through their high school such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses; career and technical (CTE) courses; or other programs of study available through their school. Students who qualify for the new Grand Canyon High School Diploma also have the option of graduating early and pursuing advanced studies at a community college. Upon completing community college, students may transfer to a college or university to pursue a bachelor's degree.

Move On When Ready Learning Collaborative Schools

The following schools will implement Move On When Ready beginning in fall 2011, with the exception of Willow Canyon High School (Dysart Unified School District), BASIS Oro Valley, and Wickenburg High School, which will adopt the college- and career-readiness initiative in fall 2012.

ASU PREPARATORY ACADEMIES - UNIVERSITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ASU Preparatory Academy High School (Phoenix)
ASU Preparatory Academy High School – Polytechnic (Mesa)

BASIS SCHOOLS INC.

BASIS Scottsdale
BASIS Tucson
BASIS Oro Valley

DYSART UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Marley Park Elementary School (El Mirage)
Willow Canyon High School (Surprise)

GARY K. HERBERGER YOUNG SCHOLARS ACADEMY - ASU WEST CAMPUS (Glendale)

NADABURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Academy at Desert Oasis (Surprise)

PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Central High School
Metro Tech High School

WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Wickenburg High School

YUMA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Cibola High School Kofa High School San Luis High School
Gila Ridge High School Yuma High School

(more)

As a whole-school education reform model, Move On When Ready holds tremendous promise. Helios Education Foundation previously announced a \$450,000 planning grant to CFA to develop a comprehensive, school-wide approach with actionable strategies that schools can use to improve education quality and ensure their students master a rigorous, curriculum-driven program of study. CFA and Yuma Union High School District will develop strategies that will require all ninth- and 10th-grade students to enroll in the Cambridge International Examination instructional system, offer multiple educational pathways for 11th- and 12th-grade students, provide student academic advising and support, create opportunities for teacher professional development and include a thorough research and evaluation component.

###

About the Center for the Future of Arizona

The Center for the Future of Arizona is a Phoenix-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that combines public-policy research with collaborative partnerships and initiatives to address issues critical to the state. CFA serves as the state's liaison with the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE), which is leading the national Move On When Ready effort. Twelve states are working with NCEE to implement board examination systems in their schools. Arizona is the first state to pass Move On When Ready legislation. To learn more about Move On When Ready, visit www.ArizonaFuture.org/mowr.

About the Arizona Community Foundation

In the tradition of community foundations everywhere, each year ACF awards millions of dollars in grants to nonprofit organizations, government agencies and educational institutions. Grants cover a wide range of focus areas including arts, culture and humanities; community, neighborhood and economic development; education and scholarships; health and human services; environment and species protection; law, justice and public safety; and scientific research. While most grants are made in Arizona to serve local community needs, grants may be made nationally as well for the betterment of our nation. For more information, visit www.azfoundation.org.