



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Plano ISD Placed on the College Board’s 4th Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll for Significant Gains in Advanced Placement<sup>®</sup> Access and Student Performance**

#### ***477 School Districts across the Nation Are Honored***

**PLANO, Texas, Nov. 8, 2013**—Plano Independent School District is one of 477 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 4th Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP<sup>®</sup> course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams. Reaching these goals indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are likely to benefit from rigorous AP course work. Since 2011, Plano ISD has increased the number of students participating in AP by 4% while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher by 5%.

“The student effort that goes into producing the quality of work in our Advanced Placement program is superior,” said Superintendent of Schools Richard Matkin, “I congratulate our current students and all those before who helped to build this nationally recognized program. The award is also shared with the dedicated teachers and counselors who encourage our students to take rigorous courses and to challenge them as learners. They are to be congratulated on their efforts to take our AP program to a level that has garnered national attention.”

In 2013, more than 3,300 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement and/or consideration in the admission process, with many colleges and universities in the United States offering credit in one or more subjects for qualifying AP scores.

“Our teachers, counselors, campus staff members, parents and especially our hardworking students deserve all of the accolades brought to us by this prestigious award,” added Paul Weaver, assistant executive director of guidance and family education services and College Board trustee. “The genuine reward is the learning gained by our students. However, when national recognition is bestowed in this manner by the College Board’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual AP District Honor Roll, it truly brings acclaim to our program and showcases the scale and possibilities offered by Plano ISD—and it is indeed impressive.”

Data from 2013 show that among African American, Hispanic and Native American students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half of students are participating because their schools do not always offer the AP course for which they have potential. Plano ISD is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

“We applaud the extraordinary efforts of the devoted teachers and administrators in this district who are offering more students the opportunity to engage in rigorous college-level course work,” said Trevor Packer, the College Board’s senior vice president of AP and Instruction. “These outcomes are a powerful testament to educators’ belief that a more diverse population of students is ready for the sort of rigor that will prepare them for success in college.”

Helping more students learn at a higher level *and* earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to simultaneously expand access and improve student performance.

“There were three specific criteria required to earn this award. Of those three lofty measures, the one that speaks volumes about our dedicated students is the standard to increase or maintain the number of traditionally underrepresented students participating in Advanced Placement exams,” Weaver said. “Our students simply break barriers and bring credibility to the quality and accessibility to Advanced Placement. National attention for our district is wonderful, but the work and commitment of our students is truly noteworthy.”

Inclusion on the 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on the examination of three years of AP data, from 2011 to 2013, for the following criteria.

Districts must:

- Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;
- Increase or maintain the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students, and;
- Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2013 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2011, *unless* the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

When these outcomes have been achieved among an AP student population in which 30 percent or more are underrepresented minority students (Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian/Alaska Native) and/or 30 percent or more are low-income students (students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch), a symbol has been affixed to the district name to highlight this work.

The complete 4th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found online at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/ap-district-honor-roll>.

### ***About Plano Independent School District***

The Plano Independent School District (Plano ISD) ([www.pisd.edu](http://www.pisd.edu)) endeavors to foster the highest level of student learning. The mission of Plano ISD is to provide an excellent education for all students. Plano ISD is located 20 miles north of Dallas, Texas and serves the residents of approximately 100 square miles in southwest Collin County, including 66 square miles in the city of Plano, northern portions of the cities of Dallas and Richardson and parts of the cities of Allen, Parker and Murphy. Plano ISD employs 7,000 faculty and staff members who serve more than 55,000 students in 70 schools and 11 service facilities. Participating in Plano ISD schools enables students to adapt to new learning opportunities throughout their lives, collaborate with, and contribute to, the global community and to be creative and disciplined in their thinking.

### ***About the Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup>***

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program<sup>®</sup> (AP<sup>®</sup>) enables willing and academically prepared students to pursue college-level studies — with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement or both — while still in high school. Through AP courses in 34 subjects, each culminating in a rigorous exam, students learn to think critically, construct solid arguments, and see many sides of an issue — skills that prepare them for college and beyond. Taking AP courses demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought the most rigorous curriculum available to them, and research indicates that students who score a 3 or higher on an AP Exam typically experience greater academic success in college and are more likely to earn a college degree than non-AP students. Each AP teacher's syllabus is evaluated and approved by faculty from some of the nation's leading colleges and universities, and AP Exams are developed and scored by college faculty and experienced AP teachers. Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States grant credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam scores — more than 3,600 institutions worldwide annually receive AP scores. In the last decade, participation in the AP Program has more than doubled and graduates succeeding on AP Exams have nearly doubled. In May 2013, 2.2 million students representing 18,920 schools around the world, both public and nonpublic, took approximately four million AP Exams.

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