

Media Release

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Center High School Principal Kevin Jones named top high school principal in Colorado

Englewood, April 21, 2015 – Kevin Jones, principal of Center High School located in Center Consolidated School District in the San Luis Valley, has been selected as the 2015 Colorado National High School Principal of the Year. This program recognizes principals who have succeeded in providing outstanding leadership.

Having served as principal at Center High School for seven years, his leadership is undeniable in helping Center achieve a recognition no other high school in Colorado has achieved—it is the only school that has received the Center of Excellence Award for each of the six years for which the award has been in existence. This award is only available to schools with an at-risk student population of greater than 75% who display greater than 55th percentile growth in all statewide tested areas for 3 consecutive years.

Preparing students for postsecondary education options has been an emphasis for Jones and his efforts have made a difference. In 2004 only 20% of Center High School graduates were engaged in some type of postsecondary education option (college, trade school or military) two years after graduation. Now 78% of the most recent graduation class is engaged in such activities.

Upon being notified of this honor, Jones responded, “I am very humbled and honored by this award. I learned early in my career to surround yourself with great people and educators and they will make you look good. I want to thank CASE for giving our school and community this recognition.”

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While Jones credits his educators and others, a teacher on his staff states, “I have to say Kevin Jones is an absolutely incredible leader, and I am proud to be a member of his team.” His instructional leadership skills are noteworthy as he provides immediate feedback to educators, offers accolades where deserved and concrete advice on ways to improve. The climate and culture at Center High School has created an environment of success for students.

George Welsh, superintendent of Center School District, provided the following comments regarding Jones: “In 2009 Kevin Jones took over Center high school when it was well positioned to become a model of school improvement. He has since gathered and supported a tremendous staff focused on preparing students for success upon completion of high school. He does so by paying attention to the fundamentals of good teaching, such as planning excellent objectives, measuring student learning in a formative fashion, and engaging every learner every day. The results of Mr. Jones' efforts has been recognition as a Colorado Center of Educational Excellence for six straight years, national recognition as a School of Opportunity, and a student body of which nearly 80% of graduates are still engaged in post secondary learning opportunities two years out of high school. Kevin Jones is simply changing lives for the better.”

The Colorado Association of Secondary School Principals (CASSP Board of Directors), an affiliate of the National Association of Secondary School Principals and a chapter of Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) selected Jones based on a rigorous selection process.

The National Association of Secondary School Principals sponsors the Principal of the Year program. This award recognizes outstanding middle level and high school principals who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students as well as demonstrating exemplary contributions to the profession. Selection criteria include personal excellence, collaborative leadership, curriculum, instruction, assessment and personalization of learning opportunities for students.

CASE and CASSP will formally present Jones with his award at an upcoming school event. He and other CASE award winners also will be recognized at an awards ceremony later this month, as well as at the 46th Annual CASE Education Leadership Convention this summer in Breckenridge.

The Colorado Association of School Executives (www.co-case.org) is the preeminent professional association for public school administrators in Colorado. The organization's mission is to empower Colorado education leaders through advocacy, professional learning and networking to deliver on the promise of public education.

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