



NEWS RELEASE

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AVID Highlighted in National Publication

San Diego - *The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF)*, a Washington DC-based nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization, *recently released **Success at Every Step: How 23 Programs Support Youth on the Path to College and Beyond (2009)***. This publication identifies programs that have been proven to help young people successfully complete high school and be prepared for success in postsecondary education and careers, based on the results of recent, high-quality evaluations. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) was identified as one of 23 effective programs that address the critical imperative to improve the college- and career-preparation of all youth.

Obtaining a high school diploma is no longer sufficient for young people who hope to land a job that pays a family-sustaining wage in today's economy. Without some type of education beyond high school, most young adults will find themselves out in the cold in the current labor market. Yet far too many youth never even earn a high school diploma; graduation rates hover at approximately 50 percent for African American, Latino, and Native American youth. Low-income students and those whose parents never attended college remain substantially less likely to enroll in postsecondary education. Many youth also lack the critical skills needed by employers in high-growth industries.

The programs in this publication address this crisis by increasing the number of young people who graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and employment. The vast majority of programs (20 out of 23) improved students' academic outcomes at the middle and high school levels, and 10 programs were associated with increased enrollment and success in college.

AVID is a college-readiness system which has been adopted by nearly 4,500 schools in 45 states and 16 countries/territories and serves nearly 400,000 students in grades 4 through 12. AVID secondary students are enrolled in their school's toughest classes, such as honors and Advanced Placement[®], but also in the AVID elective. For one period a day, they learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable.

The AVID curriculum, based on rigorous standards, was developed by middle and senior high school teachers in collaboration with college professors. It is driven by the **WICR** method, which stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, and reading. AVID curriculum is used in AVID elective classes and in content-area classes in AVID schools. For nearly 30 years, AVID has helped create college dreams for thousands of students.

Youth need a continuum of supports to develop the knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal resources necessary for success at each level of the educational and developmental pipeline. Programs like AVID play an important role in ensuring that more students reach the long-term goals of career success, civic engagement, and the capacity for lifelong learning.

The report is available at: <http://www.aypf.org/publications>

The American Youth Policy Forum (AYPF), a nonprofit, nonpartisan professional development organization based in Washington, DC, provides learning opportunities for policy leaders, practitioners, and researchers working on youth and education issues at the national, state, and local levels.

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The San Diego-based AVID Center is the national headquarters for AVID. AVID Center provides school districts with the curriculum, methodologies, and training to prepare low-income and culturally diverse students for college eligibility and success. For more information please visit us at www.avidonline.org.