

For immediate release

Lawrence Township Students...Succeeding...Soaring

Indianapolis, IN - Students in Lawrence Township are overcoming barriers with the help of rigor, support and the expectation of success. Over 600 LT students participate in the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program that reaches out to highly capable young people that are experiencing a lack of family support or other barriers, and provides the tools needed to tap into their unlimited potential. Andrea Perkins, Lawrence Central Class of 2010, will be the first- ever AVID student to be recognized as one of Lawrence Township's "Top 30" seniors this April. Andrea's classmates are also distinguishing themselves, with 35 of the 52 Lawrence Central AVID seniors already accepted to one or more colleges of their choice. Lawrence North boasts 12 of its 18 AVID seniors that have been accepted to one or more colleges of their choice.

AVID is a college-readiness system designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. Although AVID serves all students, it focuses on the least served students in the academic middle. The formula is simple - raise expectations of students and, with the AVID support system in place, they will rise to the challenge. At the high school and middle level, AVID students are enrolled in their school's toughest classes, such as Advanced Placement®, and receive support in an academic elective class - called AVID - taught within the school day by a trained AVID teacher. In the accelerated elective class, AVID students receive support through a rigorous curriculum and ongoing, structured tutorials. AVID elective teachers support AVID students by providing academic training, managing their tutorials, working with faculty and parents, and by helping students develop long-range academic and personal plans.

What differentiates AVID from other educational reform programs is its astounding success rate. AVID is a national program with over 4,500 participating schools. Since 1990, on a national level, more than 65,300 AVID students have graduated from high school and planned to attend college. Of the 2009 AVID graduates, 92 percent planned to attend college; 60 percent to a four-year college and 32 percent to a two-year college.

AVID provides our most immediate and results-oriented approach *to closing the achievement gap*. AVID has proven that, when given a program of academic rigor and support, every student can be academically successful. Indeed, Lawrence Township's astounding 5% increase in graduation rate from 80% in 2007 and 2008 to 85% in 2009 can, in part, be attributed to AVID—***the intentional personalization of each student's high school experience.***

AVID is one of the Lawrence Township programs funded by the Lawrence Township School Foundation, which is largely made possible through a grant from USA Funds.

The Mission of the Lawrence Township School Foundation is to support creativity, innovation, and excellence that enhance the educational community of Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township (MSDLT). The Foundation raises funds to support important educational programs that would otherwise not be funded.

MSDLT is located on the northeast side of Indianapolis, includes two high schools, one career center, three middle schools, 11 elementary schools and four early learning centers and represents over 16,000 students. MSDLT is a diverse school district that includes 57% students of color, 47 native languages spoken by MSDLT students, 46 countries represented and 46% of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch.

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Contacts for Interviews or additional program information:

Sharon Smith, MSDLT Director of Continuous Improvement, 317-423-8320
Chris Harmon, Lawrence Central High School, AVID Coordinator, 317-964-7400
Ellen Robinson, Director, Lawrence Township School Foundation, 317-423-8302

Media contact:

Ana Lark Stark, Communications, Lawrence Township School Foundation
Phone: (office) 317-423-8300 or (cell) 317-590-0846
anastark@msdl.t.k12.in.us