

Representing the following counties:

- Alameda
- Contra Costa
- Marin
- Napa
- San Francisco
- San Mateo
- Solano



March — April 2004

State Superintendent Jack O'Connell Visits Region IV

On February 13, 2004, Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Schools, held a press conference at **Galileo High School** in San Francisco to an audience of 80 AVID students grades 9-12. State Superintendent O'Connell brought a former AVID student, now a student at UC Berkeley, who spoke about her life in Somalia prior to her immigration to the United States and her AVID experiences. Two students from the Galileo High School AVID program also spoke about what AVID has done for them. The message from Superintendent O'Connell was that "all students deserve access to the most challenging classes. All students deserve schools where they hear every day the message that achievement is expected, that their potential is greater than they can imagine. That's what high expectations are about. And if we don't have them in our high schools, we cheat our children of their futures."

"The first and most critical goal is to raise expectations for all students and provide support for students to reach them."

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Data Collection—Many thanks go to sites that submitted their data to AVID Center by December 15, 2003. As of February 27, 95.8 percent of our sites had submitted data. The data submitted is critical to the continuing support that AVID has received from the legislature. Without the data to prove its success, AVID can be viewed as "just another program." The data from our AVID sites in California continue to speak to the success of the AVID program. In California, 82.7% of AVID students complete the A-G requirements. Ninety-five percent of the students go on to college, and 77 percent go on to four-year colleges and universities.



Summer Institute—is scheduled for July 19-23 in Sacramento and August 2-6 in San Diego. The region will fund two registrations for each continuing AVID site. If the site funds a third registration, AVID Center will fund a fourth. The region will also fund a hotel room for the first 25 sites that register. Summer Institute information was mailed to you the last week of February. Remember—early bird registration ends May 1, 2004. Don't miss out!

Important Notes...

♦ **Write Off**—In February, many of our middle and high school AVID students wrote to a very difficult prompt on the topic of charity. The following students were the top winners for the middle and high school levels:

7th Grade

1 st Place—Rachel Tarantino	McKinley Institute of Technology
2 nd Place—Kelsey Williams	Burlingame Intermediate
3 rd Place—Lauren Johnson	Burlingame Intermediate

8th Grade

1 st Place—Aris Grivakis	Burlingame Intermediate
2 nd Place—Fabiola Ramirez	Oak Grove Middle
3 rd Place—Alex Yang	Burlingame Intermediate

9th Grade

1 st Place—Dearbhail Halligan	Balboa High
2 nd Place—Nathan Hansen	El Cerrito High
3 rd Place—Jasmine Medina	Alameda High

10th Grade

1 st Place—Aaron Fellman	Amador Valley High
2 nd Place—Emily Fuentes	Encinal High
3 rd Place—Amy Sutton	California High

11th Grade

1 st Place—Shaleena Kumar	Pittsburg High
2 nd Place—Shery Enos	Will C. Wood High
2 nd Place—Devin Donaldson	Alameda High

12th Grade

1 st Place—Nirav Prasad	Carlmont High
2 nd Place—Justin Wilkins	San Leandro High
3 rd Place—Jarrod Vera	Pittsburg High



A special thank you to the teachers who participated on the scoring panel:

Beth Gable, John Swett High School
 Martee Lopez, Capuchino High School
 Christina Mitsiopoulos, Will C. Wood High School

Dates to Remember...

SAT Testing Dates:

March 27, 2004	SAT I only
May 1, 2004	SAT I & SAT II
June 5, 2004	SAT I & SAT II

ACT Testing Dates:

June 12, 2004
September 25, 2004
October 23, 2004

Summer Institute

July 19-23, 2004 Sacramento
 August 2-6, 2004 San Diego

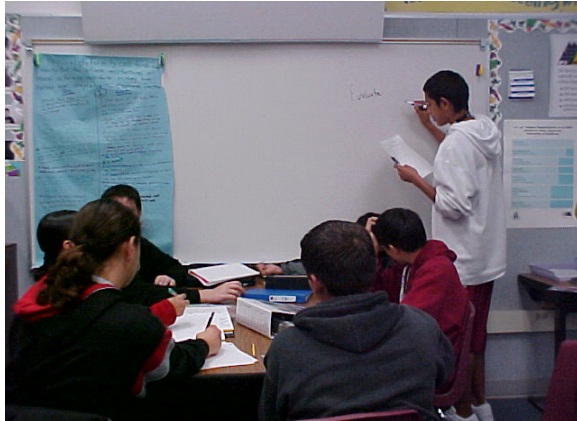
Early Bird Registration ends May 1, 2004

School News...

- ♦ **Awareness**—On February 3, 2004, McKinley Institute of Technology in Redwood City hosted an Awareness Session for Region IV. Middle school teachers from sites in Alameda, San Mateo and San Francisco counties attended. Visitors had the opportunity to visit AVID classrooms, observe a Socratic Seminar and talk with AVID students. In addition, the parents of the AVID students provided an outstanding lunch for all who attended.



Estelle Darrow facilitates MIT students in a Socratic Seminar.



MIT students participating in tutorials on Awareness Day.

- ♦ On February 5, 2004, Fairfield High School hosted an Awareness Session for high teachers and administrators. Highlights of the day were observing tutorials, holding a question and answer period with seniors and the student/parent/teacher panel. Teachers from Contra Costa, Napa and Marin counties attended.
- ♦ Region IV staff extends a huge “thank you” for the work of the AVID staff at both schools for hosting the Awareness events. It is an enormous amount of work to organize such an event. Awareness events allow teachers and administrators who are not familiar with AVID to see it first-hand. Schools left the events expressing interest in beginning AVID programs at their sites.

- ♦ Students in **Central Middle School’s** 7/8 AVID class had the unique opportunity to hear guest speaker, Dr. Michael Trujillo, as part of curriculum support in U.S. History. Dr. Trujillo is a Native American Pueblo Indian who has had an executive position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C. He oversees medical care at clinics on reservations throughout the United States. Dr. Trujillo gave a lecture series on the history of the Native Americans in the United States, how they have been treated, their current situation and other interesting facts about their culture and customs. Students enjoyed this tie-in with their study of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Several AVID students who are of Native American descent were able to obtain information on scholarships as well.



- ♦ In February, three AVID students from **Cunha Intermediate School** were honored by a teacher with the Student of the Week award for academic excellence:

Ady Padilla —Social Studies

Molly Lesser—Language Arts

Nicole Guzinski—Language Arts



- ♦ **Ygnacio Valley High School** hosted a wonderful potluck on February 18. Oak Grove Middle School students, the feeder school to Ygnacio Valley had a good time. Students from both schools brought food to share. It was very informational, and students had fun playing cooperative games. Kudos to Susan Schmidt from Lily Wilson.

