

DV named to AP District Honor Roll

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Significant gains in placement performance

WESTFALL — Delaware Valley School District is one of fewer than 400 public school districts in the nation being honored by the College Board with a place on the second annual Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Roll. Honors were for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Achieving both of these goals is the ideal scenario for a district's Advanced Placement program, because it indicates that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically-prepared students who are likely to benefit most from AP coursework. According to Jay Tucker, Counseling Department Chairperson in the Delaware Valley School District this is the second year in a row that DV has achieved this national honor. Only 112 school districts in the country made the list the past two years. Since 2009, the Delaware Valley School District increased the number of students participating in AP from 484 to 636 while improving the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher from 65 percent in 2009 to 79 percent in 2011. The majority of U.S. colleges and universities grant college credit or advanced placement for a score of 3 or above on AP exams. "I am truly honored with this achievement. This honor is a result of a team effort between our teachers and administrators working diligently to broaden the course offerings while maintaining the high standards of the AP program. This achievement truly speaks to our district's mission of Strive for Excellence," said Superintendent Dr. Candis Finan. The second annual AP Honor Roll is made up of only those public school districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance. The list includes 367 school districts across 43 states and Canada. Pennsylvania led all states with 34 public school districts named to the honor roll, followed by Massachusetts and New York, both with 30. Many U.S. school districts have focused on expanding access to AP courses as part of a strategy to improve college readiness. While these efforts have resulted in more students earning scores of 3 or better — these efforts also have resulted in more students earning scores of 1 or 2. Accordingly, there has been a slight decline since 2001 in the percentage of AP students scoring a 3 or better, a decline that can be expected in any program attracting a broader cross-section of students. "The Delaware Valley School District has achieved something very remarkable. It managed to open the doors of its AP classrooms to many more students, while also increasing the percentage of students earning high enough AP Exam grades to stand out in the competitive college admission process and qualify for college credit and placement," said Trevor Packer, the College Board's senior vice president of Advanced Placement and college readiness. The complete 2nd Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found at www.collegeboard.org.