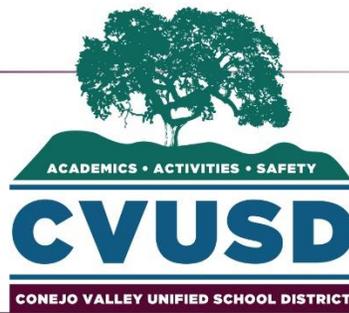


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WESTLAKE HIGH SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS 2016 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL *CVUSD school is one of 329 nationwide to receive recognition*

Thousand Oaks, Calif., September 28, 2016 – U.S. Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr., announced today that Conejo Valley Unified School District's Westlake High School has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School based on its overall academic excellence.

Westlake High School is one of 329 National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2016 that received the recognition. In total 279 public and 50 private schools received this honor.

Westlake High School is one of four high schools in the state of California to receive this distinguished honor.

Schools are selected for the National Blue Ribbon honor based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

All selected schools are recognized in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores and graduation rates:

- *Exemplary High Performing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- *Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools* are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's subgroups and all students over the past five years.

Westlake High School is recognized as an *Exemplary High Performing School*.

The National Blue Ribbon award plaque affirms the hard work of students, educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content. The National Blue Ribbon flag gracing a school's building is a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

Now in its 34th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on fewer than 8,500 public and private elementary, middle, and high schools. On Nov. 7 and 8, the U.S. Department of Education will formally recognize the 329 schools at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., which Westlake High School leadership is looking forward to attending.

The Department invites National Blue Ribbon School nominations from the top education official in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated each year.

For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools program, visit <http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>

About Conejo Valley Unified School District:

The Conejo Valley Unified School District is a choice destination for education, where every child matters. Established July 1, 1974, CVUSD currently serves more than 19,000 students with 16 elementary schools, one K-8 school, four middle schools, three comprehensive high schools, one online-blended high school and one continuation high school. CVUSD also offers preschool, early child care, transitional kindergarten, and other academic alternatives like Adult Education opportunities. CVUSD is committed to all students reaching their full potential in a supportive and academically challenging environment which includes Honors, AP classes, an International Baccalaureate Program, School-to-Career opportunities and additional support programs for English Language Learners, at-risk students and students with alternative learning styles. Learn more at: www.conejouisd.org

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