

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact:

Victoria Varea

National Center for Urban School Transformation

vvarea@sdsu.edu

Five San Diego Area Schools Featured in the 2021 America's Best Urban Schools Symposium on March 1-4, 2021

SAN DIEGO – (February 8, 2021) —The National Center for Urban School Transformation (NCUST) will feature only 19 elementary, middle, and high schools in their 2021 America's Best Urban Schools Symposium. Five of the featured schools are from the San Diego area. They include:

Rolando Park Elementary in the San Diego Unified School District, led by Principal Anthony DeLuca

Kearny High School in the San Diego Unified School District, led by Principal Ana Diaz-Booz

Silver Wing Elementary in the Chula Vista Elementary School District, led by Principal M. Theresa Corona

Mueller Charter School in the Chula Vista Elementary School District, led by Dr. Maureen DeLuca

O'Farrell Charter High School in San Diego, led by Principal Brian Rainey

These schools are included in this high-powered professional development event because they are achieving outstanding, concrete evidence of academic success for every demographic group they serve. All of the schools serve children from low-income, diverse communities and none of them use selective admissions criteria; yet they are among the highest achieving schools in the state of California.

The America's Best Urban Schools Symposium features schools from across the nation where NCUST has found abundant quantitative and qualitative evidence of academic success. The Center's Executive Director, Dr. Joseph Johnson, explained, "These schools provide evidence of the potential of urban schools to make a powerful difference in the lives of students. These schools show what dedicated teachers and talented leaders can do when they work together to provide rigorous curricula, ensure relevant instruction, and build positive relationships with all the students they serve." The Symposium will provide opportunities for teachers and school leaders from throughout the country to learn how educators can elevate learning results for all students, but especially for students who historically have not been served well in schools. Johnson emphasized, "These schools show us that Black students, Latinx students, and students from low-income families can achieve outstanding academic results, if we act in ways that challenge them, support them, and show that we are committed to their success!"

Information about the Symposium (including low-cost registration) can be found at

<https://ncust.com/americas-best-urban-schools-symposium/>.