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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2024

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Chino Valley USD Recognized as a Model Professional Learning Community at Work *CVUSD is one of only two school districts in the state to earn this prestigious award.*

Chino, CA – The Chino Valley Unified School District is excited to share that it was recently recognized by Solution Tree, a leading provider of educational strategies and tools that improve staff and student performance, for its sustained success in raising student achievement. As one of only two California school districts to be awarded the global distinction, and the only school district honored coming out of the pandemic, the award highlights the successful implementation of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work® process and how the District's strategies have contributed in the improved achievement of CVUSD students.

To capture such a distinguishing honor that only 37 school districts internationally have been able to achieve, the District was approached to complete a rigorous application process where CVUSD administrators presented clear evidence of consecutive data showing increases in student achievement scores over the past three years and the implementation of PLC methods districtwide that are embedded in CVUSD's culture and day-to-day practices during that same three-year period.

PLCs are schools and districts in which educators recognize the key to improved learning for students is on-going, job-embedded learning for the adults who serve those scholars. The three big ideas of a PLC call upon educators to focus on learning, build a collaborative culture, and create a results orientation.

In 2017, after attending a PLC summit to build a shared understanding of professional learning communities, educators and district leaders agreed that it was staff's fundamental responsibility to establish a cohesive and collaborative PLC process that elevated student learning outcomes for every CVUSD student. Since the PLC summit, 100% of Chino Valley teachers have gone through trainings to build their capacity to participate and grow in a professional learning community, school sites have expanded their PLC Guiding Coalition members, and the district office has worked through a top down, bottom-up approach in building the District's collective capacity and accountability.

During the 2018-2019 school year, the District established committees of teachers and instructional coaches to identify districtwide essential standards for each grade level or course. Districtwide implementation of essential standards began in the 2019-2020 school year and committees executed formative Essential Standards Assessments (ESAs) that are administered three times a year to monitor student learning around the established essential standards.

For their commitment and success for applying an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students they serve, Michael G. Wickman Elementary, Country Springs Elementary, and Canyon Hills JHS, have also been recognized by Solution Tree as Model PLC Schools and Butterfield Ranch Elementary as a Promising PLC School. Three additional CVUSD schools are patiently awaiting

determination on their applications submitted to Solution Tree to verify if they will also proudly wear the badge of being a Model PLC School.

According to the Champions of PLC at Work®, educators in the schools and districts selected for this recognition have shown “a sustained commitment to helping all of their students achieve at high levels. They have been willing to alter the structure and culture of the organization to reflect their commitment. We applaud and congratulate them for achieving this very significant milestone on the never-ending PLC journey.”

Cultivating clarity around essential standards and deconstructing each standard into clear learning intentions and success criteria has won the Chino Valley Unified School District recognition from other leading educational agencies, such as Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), an independent, non-partisan research center led by faculty directors at Stanford University, USC, UC Davis, UCLA, and the UC Berkeley. In its December 2023 report *What Does it Take to Accelerate the Learning of Every Child?*, PACE representatives applauded the actions CVUSD has taken to help schools focus on the work of teaching and learning while ensuring that its system supports the scaling of high-quality practices across district sites.

To read more about the criteria and responsibility of becoming and remaining a Model Professional Learning Community at Work, please visit <https://www.solutiontree.com/our-solutions/plc-at-work>. To access the PACE report, interested parties are encouraged to visit https://edpolicyinca.org/sites/default/files/2023-12/r_cottingham-dec2023.pdf.

About Chino Valley Unified School District:

Founded in 1860, Chino Valley Unified School District serves approximately 26,000 students across 35 schools within the Chino Valley and South Ontario areas. Home to 18 California Distinguished schools, students receive a rigorous, 21st century education in preparation for college and career. Thriving performing arts and athletic programs, nationally recognized marching bands and engaging parent-school partnerships distinguish Chino Valley Unified School District as one of the best school districts in California. For more information about Chino Valley Unified School district, please visit www.chino.k12.ca.us.

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