



**Advancement Via Individual Determination**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **AVID National Conference – “Innovative, Inspiring, Invigorating”**

SAN DIEGO – More than 1,100 educators attended AVID’s National Conference in Orlando, Florida last week to learn about teaching and engaging students so that they can achieve their highest potential. Featured keynote speaker, Dr. Robyn Jackson, president and CEO of MindSteps, Inc., encouraged the audience to ensure that all students were exposed to rigorous courses, and AVID’s Texas Assistant State Director Patrick Briggs challenged the audience asking, “Does ALL really mean ALL?” when educating students who come from different cultural backgrounds.

The two-and-a-half-day conference was a forum to discuss and share best practices on opening access to rigorous curriculum for all. Participants included superintendents, school board members, district and site administrators, and other educational leaders.

“It’s gratifying to know that, even with schools facing cutbacks and budget issues, they see the value of National Conference,” said AVID Executive Director Jim Nelson. “This was one of our largest National Conferences and was a wonderful opportunity for educational leaders from across the country to share best practices in raising achievement for all students.”

In addition to the keynotes, the event featured a student panel and more than 70 concurrent sessions focused on:

- African American male student achievement
- Brain research
- Closing the gender gap
- Creating an elementary-through-postsecondary college readiness system
- Culturally relevant teaching
- Developing a schoolwide and districtwide college-going culture
- English learners acceleration
- STEM in the classroom
- 21<sup>st</sup> century skills

Next year’s National Conference, “Transforming Schools for College Readiness,” will be held December 6-8, 2012, in San Diego, California, and will feature a keynote address by Wes Moore, renowned speaker and author of [The Other Wes Moore](#).

#### **ABOUT AVID**

AVID is a non-profit, proven college readiness system that closes the achievement gap. Today, AVID is implemented in approximately 4,800 schools in 48 states and 16 countries/ territories; AVID serves more than 425,000 students in grades 4-12, as well as students in 24 postsecondary institutions. The AVID College Readiness System transforms a school’s academic culture to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges and succeed in postsecondary education and training.

For more information, visit [www.avid.org](http://www.avid.org).

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