



The National Association for Magnet and Theme-based Schools

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Riding the Wave: The Future is Now

**Magnet Schools of America 34th National Conference on Magnet Schools
Miami, FL, May 3-7, 2016 - Hosted by Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

Washington, DC, April 26, 2016 – Magnet Schools of America (MSA) will hold its 34th National Conference on Magnet Schools in Miami, Florida from May 3-7, 2016 at the InterContinental Miami. It will be hosted by the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The national conference will attract more than 1,500 public magnet school principals, teachers, and administrators. It is the nation’s largest conference dedicated to magnet and theme-based schools. Through the national conference, MSA is advancing the field of magnet school education by providing training and support for magnet school leaders and educators.

During the annual event, attendees will experience a multitude of professional development and networking opportunities. The conference will feature keynote speeches, awards ceremonies, breakout sessions, magnet school tours, student performances, scholarship announcements, and vendor exhibitions. Through its national merit awards program, MSA will also recognize the accomplishments of our nation’s most exemplary magnet schools. These awards are given to magnet schools and programs that have demonstrated a commitment to high academic standards, curriculum innovation, school diversity, and parent and community engagement. The merit awards will be announced during awards ceremonies held on May 5 and 6.

The highest rated merit awardees are eligible to be named the nation’s top Elementary, Secondary, or New & Emerging Magnet School. One extraordinary magnet school will be selected to receive the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Distinguished Merit Award, which is considered the most prestigious award for magnet schools. The conference will culminate with the announcement of these awards and the 2016 National Magnet School Superintendent of the Year; District Award for Magnet Sustainability; and National Principal, Teacher, and Alumni of the Year during an Extravaganza held at the Olympia Theatre on Friday evening, May 6.

National Conference Guest Speakers

Alberto M. Carvalho, Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools

Mr. Carvalho has served as Superintendent of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the nation's fourth largest school system, since September 2008. He is a nationally recognized expert on education transformation and finance. During his tenure, the district has received state and national recognition for unprecedented increases in student achievement and graduation rates. The school district was named as the 2014 College Board Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence District of the Year, as well as the 2012 winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education.

JD Hoye, President of National Academy Foundation (NAF)

With a deep commitment to preparing students for college and meaningful careers, JD Hoye has worked at both the grassroots and the highest levels of government to reform how young people are engaged in learning and how they are positioned to pursue their academic interests and career goals. Through this work, she has become a nationally recognized leader in forging partnerships between educators and employers. NAF is a national network of education, business, and community leaders who work together to ensure high school

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing leadership for high quality innovative instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students.

students are college, career, and future ready. In leading NAF, JD oversees a network of over 700 college preparatory, career-themed academies in 36 states, including DC and the US Virgin Islands.

Tristian Stobie, Director, Education at Cambridge International Examinations

Mr. Stobie leads the development and implementation of Cambridge International's educational strategy for schools. He also oversees worldwide university recognition of Cambridge qualifications and its working relationships with Ministries of Education engaged in education reform. Cambridge International Examinations prepares students for life, helping them develop an informed curiosity and a lasting passion for learning. Its international qualifications are recognized by the world's best universities and employers, giving students a wide range of options in their education and career.

Miami – Dade County Public Schools Magnet School Tours

On the first day of the conference attendees will have the chance to visit a cross section of Miami-Dade County Public Schools most popular and highest performing magnet schools. These tours will provide magnet educators with a unique perspective into the district's theme-based programs featuring i-Prep, International Baccalaureate (IB), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M), Foreign Language, Design and Architecture, Biomedical and Environmental Sciences, and Maritime Studies. During the tours attendees will select two schools to visit where they will explore facilities, observe ongoing classroom instruction, and interact with students, teachers, and principals.

Launch of National Magnet School Certification

Magnet Schools of America is ushering in a new era by launching a national certification process based on the five pillars of magnet schools and the National Magnet School Standards of Excellence. These standards define the essential elements and characteristics of high-quality magnet programs, and provide the necessary benchmarks for schools and districts to aspire to when developing or working to improve their magnet schools. Through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL) we will launch the national certification process at the 34th National Conference on Magnet Schools in Miami, Florida. During the conference, multiple sessions will also be held focused on national magnet school certification.

Conference Sponsors

MSA would like to thank the following conference sponsors: American Education Solutions, Cambridge International Examinations, Discovery Education, Edgenuity, Mc-Graw Hill Education, NAF, Pearson, United Data Technologies, Hogan Lovells, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, ABC Mouse, Dr. Judith Stein, DKH Consulting Services, Inc., and ProSource Specialties.

About Magnet Schools of America

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a nonprofit education association that represents more than 3,800 magnet schools serving 2.6 million students. MSA was founded in 1986 and authorized as a 501(c)3 in 1994. It supports and serves the leaders and teachers of magnet and theme-based schools, while promoting the development of new magnet programs and public schools of choice.

Press Contact:

Magnet Schools of America,
John Laughner, Legislative and Communications Manager
202-824-0672 or john.laughner@magnet.edu

For more information about the 34th National Conference on Magnet Schools, please visit www.msamiami2016.org Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at #MSA2016.

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing leadership for high quality innovative instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students.