



*The National Association for Magnet and Theme-based Schools*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Catch a Rising Star***

#### **Magnet Schools of America 35<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Magnet Schools**

#### **Los Angeles, CA, April 26-30, 2017 - Hosted by the Los Angeles Unified School District**

*Washington, DC, April 24, 2017* – Magnet Schools of America (MSA) will hold its 35th National Conference on Magnet Schools in Los Angeles, California from April 26-30, 2017 at the Westin Bonaventure Los Angeles. It will be hosted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The national conference will attract more than 1,200 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 learning 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 April 28 and 29.

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 in the nation. The conference will culminate with the announcement of these awards and the Donna Grady-Creer District Award for Magnet Sustainability, and National Principal and Teacher of the Year awards during a Red Carpet Afterparty held Saturday evening April 29.

#### **National Conference Guest Speaker**

Our speaker is an original Freedom Writer whose story is told in part in the 2007 hit movie, *Freedom Writers*. By age 16, his story was almost over: his father was incarcerated, he dropped out of school, had lived in 26 places, and his best friend had been brutally murdered. But he turned the page and began writing new, more fulfilling chapters in his life. Manny Scott has energized millions worldwide with his inspiring life story and messages of hope. He is the author of two books: *Your Next Chapter*, a book that shows people how to create the life of their dreams; and *How to Reach Youth Today*, a book that shares proven practices and principles that helps reach students who seem unreachable.

#### **Los Angeles Unified School District Magnet School Tours**

On the first day of the conference, attendees will have the chance to visit a cross section of Los Angeles Unified School District's most popular and innovative magnet schools. These tours will provide magnet

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educators with a unique perspective into the district's theme-based programs featuring: Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (S.T.E.A.M), Visual and Performing Arts, Medical Science, Law Enforcement and Public Safety, Filmmaking and Digital Design. 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.

### **Conference Supporters**

MSA would like to thank the following conference supporters: American Education Solutions, Cambridge International Examinations, DKH Consulting, Dr. Judith Stein, Sanford Harmony, Creative Learning Systems, INCubatoredu, Living Rhythms, Lego, Subway, Altamira Consulting, United States Marine Corps, Pearson, PCS Edventures, PowerSchool, Positive Promotions, SmartChoice Technologies, SchoolMint, Mackin, ProSource Specialties, Yoobi, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), Rubicon, and the National Coalition on School Diversity.

### **About Magnet Schools of America**

Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a nonprofit education association that represents approximately 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 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.

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For more information about the 35<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Magnet Schools, please visit [www.msalosangeles2017.org](http://www.msalosangeles2017.org) Be sure to also follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram - @MagnetSchlsMSA and #MSA2017

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