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11625 PICO BOULEVARD
LOS ANGELES, CA 90064
310.943.5444
Fax 310.231.3399

www.NewWestCharter.org

NEW WEST CHARTER NAMED AS A 2009 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

New West Charter Middle School has earned the state's highest level of recognition for public schools, State Superintendent Jack O'Connell announced in April 2009.

"This recognition is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our students, teachers, staff, parents and Governance Council towards setting high expectations for each student," said Dr. Sharon Weir, New West Principal. "To earn such a prestigious award at New West is a tremendous accomplishment after only 6 years in operation as a charter school. We are particularly proud because this award not only highlights our high quality teaching program but recognizes the progress we have made in narrowing the achievement gap".

Now in its 24th year, the California School Recognition Program spotlights exemplary elementary and secondary campuses in alternating years. This year, 136 middle schools and 125 high schools were honored after each submitting a comprehensive application and took part in an extensive site visit. The comprehensive application required New West to select two signature teaching practices narrowing the achievement gap. Ms. Almendarez and Ms. Gadwa's writing strategies were highlighted to illustrate overall achievement in writing. The site visit was conducted on March 20, 2009 by a team of Distinguished School experts who visited all classes before confirming the honor upon New West.

All 2009 honorees will be celebrated during an awards ceremony on Friday, May 29 at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim. This year's Distinguished School recipients will retain the designation through 2013, when they are eligible to reapply.



Sharon Weir Ed.D
Principal/Executive Director

