



## Fontana Unified School District

9680 Citrus Avenue • P.O. Box 5090 • Fontana, CA 92334-5090 • (909) 357-7600

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## Fontana Police Department

17005 Upland Avenue • Fontana, CA 92335 • (909) 350-7740

### JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Olivier Wong Ah Sun  
Chief of Staff  
Fontana Unified School District  
(909) 357-7600  
[Olivier.WongAhSun@fusd.net](mailto:Olivier.WongAhSun@fusd.net)

Martha Guzman-Hurtado  
Public Information Coordinator  
Fontana Police Department  
(909) 854-8080  
[Mguzmanhurtado@fontana.org](mailto:Mguzmanhurtado@fontana.org)

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The Fontana Leadership Intervention Program (FLIP) has been selected to receive the prestigious California School Boards Association's 2014 Golden Bell Award in the Student Services category for establishing best practices in education. FLIP, a partnership between the Fontana Unified School District's Police Department and the City of Fontana Police Department, is a 16 week leadership program that provides "at-risk" students ages 12-17 with services, resources and training to ensure they stay in school and out of trouble.



Fontana Superintendent of Schools Dr. Leslie Boozer said, "We are so proud of the amazing work that our school police officers and staff have done to support our students and families in collaboration with the City of Fontana. Their success is evidenced not only by the prestigious Golden Bell Award, it is illustrated by the fact that 80% of students who participate in FLIP never reoffend and are graduating from high school prepared for college at impressive rates."



Participants, who must apply for and be accepted to the FLIP program, receive tutoring to ensure their academic growth, school visits to reinforce coordination of services and training classes that focus on topics including life skills, violence prevention, drug and alcohol resistance, ethics, leadership, and teamwork every week. FLIP officers also conduct weekly visits to participants' homes to engage parents and guardians in their students' success. Two classes of 50 students each participate in FLIP every school year. "We are very grateful for the recognition of the FLIP program, which shows that when schools collaborate with their local police departments to engage students and families, great success can be achieved" said Scott Mesa, Fontana School Police Chief.

Fontana Unified School District Board President Mr. Henry (Gus) Hawthorn lauded the award, saying, "This is the reason we serve so proudly on the Board of Education, so all our students have access to the guidance and training they need to live productive lives."

Fontana Chief of Police Rodney Jones added, "Recognition from the California School Boards Association further confirms that FLIP is changing young lives and that investing in the next generation of community leaders."

The award, which recognizes the positive results the FLIP program has had for the students of Fontana, will be presented in San Francisco on December 16, 2014 at the CSBA Golden Bell Luncheon.

