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Explore Elementary receives Commissioner's Choice Award

(Thornton/Denver) - In the first-ever state event celebrating effective educators, Explore Elementary will be awarded with the Colorado Commissioner of Education Getting Results Award. The award recognizes teams of teachers whose commitment to student growth has produced significant and measurable improvement in student achievement. Explore Elementary will be honored at a luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 8, sponsored by the Colorado Legacy Foundation.

"This award shows how teachers and staff at Explore Elementary work as a crew and collaborate in support of student success," said Explore Elementary Director Kevin King. "Our teachers are committed to high quality work and are proud to help demonstrate the power of delivering engaging and rigorous instruction for all students."

Classroom practices from Explore Elementary will be shared with school districts around the state as a series of tools and documents prepared by the Colorado Legacy Foundation.

Explore Elementary opened in 2006 as a part of Mapleton Public School's District-wide transition to small-by-design schools. As a K-6 school modeled with the support of Expeditionary Learning, Explore Elementary offers close to 400 students high-academic content coupled with real-world projects. Since opening, proficiency rates and growth rates in reading, writing and math at Explore Elementary have continued to rise. Students proficient or advanced in reading and math has increased more than 20 percentile points, and Explore Elementary has doubled the number of students proficient or advanced in writing.

The 2011 Commissioners Choice Awards recognizes excellence in educator effectiveness in four categories – student achievement, leadership, and educator preparation and induction. The awards recognize and celebrate effective teachers and school leaders, in addition to their practices and leadership across the state of Colorado.

About Mapleton Public Schools

Mapleton Public Schools covers 18 square miles in North Denver/Adams County. We serve nearly 8,000 students in suburban, rural, and light industrial communities. We are committed to raising expectations by providing choices for learning and removing obstacles for all students so that we can guarantee that each student "achieves his or her dreams and enthusiastically contributes to his or her community and world." Visit www.mapleton.us to learn more about Mapleton Public Schools.

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