



## **Pearson Partners with Six "Model" California Schools**

### *Collaboration to Showcase 21st Century Innovation Through New Digital Technologies, Best Practices & Research-Based Approaches to Learning*

Sacramento, CA ([PRWEB](#)) October 15, 2009 -- As the President and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan continue the call to transform education and develop an "innovation strategy" for America, [Pearson](#) today announced partnerships with "Model Innovation Schools" throughout California.

The global leader in education services and technology, Pearson is working with six model schools to help break the mold by harnessing technology to "do school differently," with an outcomes-oriented focus on personalizing learning, developing innovative assessments aligned with data systems that inform instruction, and investing in effective teacher and leadership development.

"The Pearson Model Schools program represents a bold new step in our march to bring the latest digital technology and best practices into the state's classrooms," said Vicky Bush, Pearson's vice president for California. "These schools are intended to be centers of innovation that will lead the way for all of our schools to become more effective with the integration of technology, intervention, and research-based instruction in the classroom."

The six 2009 model schools are:

- Valadez Middle School Academy, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District (Orange County);
- VanderMolen Fundamental Elementary, Corona-Norco Unified School District (Riverside County);
- Rosebud Academy Charter School, Pasadena Unified School District;
- Ecademy, a K-8 virtual online public school (San Diego); and
- Woodridge Elementary, Twin Rivers Unified School District (Sacramento County); and
- Rio Terra Junior High School, Twin Rivers Unified School District (Sacramento County).

"We have selected these special schools for a combination of reasons," said Bush. "Not only are they in the forefront of technology, but they reflect the great diversity of our state. Furthermore, these schools represent leadership in our state in embracing new learning models to meet the needs of all students - whether they are on level, advanced, at-risk or struggling learners or the 25 percent of California's students who are learning English at the same time they are working to master subject area content."

The model schools program will focus on core subject areas. Bush said that Pearson would be working closely with each model school to track activities, collect data and monitor progress in such areas as:

- Student performance, especially those of English Learners and at-risk students
- Innovation in teaching and learning
- Commitment to outreach in the community
- Teacher development
- Imaginative and bold use of technology and digital learning



- Setting the standard for other school/educators by selecting products and services that are research-based and supported by independent efficacy studies

"Throughout the coming year, Pearson will collaborate with these schools as they integrate Pearson's new instructional materials into each grade, as well as implementing strong professional development for teachers," said Bush. "We also will offer grant writing assistance and an opportunity for schools to participate in a wide range of Pearson Foundation programs and activities such as the global Read for the Record Campaign held each fall to bring awareness to the importance of early literacy."

While the schools are in various stages of development with the Model School Program, some are already touting the benefits:

"With Pearson's help we were able secure technology hardware that we really needed in our school," said Hattie Arrington, a second-grade teacher at Pasadena's Rosebud Academy. "All of the Pearson programs include software that makes planning and organizing easy, but now I will have a chance to use all of the student centered technology with my students. And having one of Pearson's technology consultants give us additional training increased our ability to implement the educational programs to their full capability."

Bush said Pearson may likely expand the model school program in the future.

"We hope to apply what we learn from these initial innovation participants to other schools throughout the state," said Bush.

#### About Pearson and California

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#### Media Contacts:

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