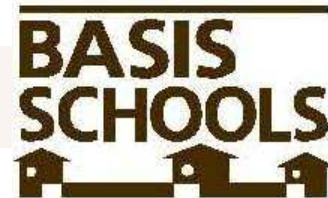


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



APRIL 7, 2009

BASIS Tucson, America's #1 Public School, Wins Arizona's Econ Challenge

Tucson—Students from BASIS Tucson School, currently ranked as America's #1 public school by *Newsweek* magazine, added to the school's growing list of accomplishments by winning the Arizona Econ Challenge. BASIS Tucson's Team 2 finished first among the 33 teams with a total score of 840, while the school's Team 1 finished fifth with a score of 780. BASIS's championship team consisted of juniors Alex Davis and Sean Saleh, sophomore Dany Joumaa, and freshman Harry Du. By winning, the team from the open-enrollment BASIS School defeated all eight teams from Tucson's University High School, a school restricted to gifted students that had one every one of the previous four Arizona Econ Challenges.

The Arizona Econ Challenge, sponsored by the Arizona Council of Economic Education, is an annual economics competition open to every school in the state. In the challenge, each team member competes individually, having 30 minutes to answer a rapid-fire exam consisting of 30 questions in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international economics. "Each team member did a great job, showing that they are well-versed in all major aspects of economic literacy," said Marc Waggoner, BASIS Tucson's coach and economics teacher. The team earned the right to compete on April 27 in the Regional Competition in Los Angeles, sponsored by the National Council of Economic Education. If the team wins Regionals, they will compete at Nationals in New York City on May 16-18.

Economics education plays an important part in BASIS Tucson's internationally recognized academic program. All BASIS students must take a full year of economics in the 8th grade, and many students take Advanced Placement (AP) Economics as a high-school elective, including the four members of the state championship team. The BASIS curriculum, which combines Asian, European, and American educational methods, is based around the challenging AP program. To graduate, each student must take eight AP courses and six AP exams, and a student's score on the AP Exam is factored into his or her course grade (worth about 50% of the entire grade). BASIS students' success on AP exams and AIMS tests have led to widespread acclaim: the school is ranked as the #1 public high school in America by *Newsweek* magazine and #13 by *U.S. News and World Report*, ranking it several places ahead of Tucson's University High School.

BASIS Tucson was founded by Michael and Olga Block in 1998. Its students' successes have earned national recognition by *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*.

BASIS Tucson

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