



**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**For immediate Release**

**PRESS CONTACT:**

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**Newt Gingrich and Al Sharpton**

**Visit Tucson to Learn From BASIS School;**

**Film Documentary Premiere Oct. 1 at Fox is Sold Out**

**(Tucson, AZ – September 29, 2009)** – On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Former Speaker Newt Gingrich and Reverend Al Sharpton will visit **BASIS School** in Tucson for a private tour of the school from 12:30 – 2:30pm. **The press is invited to a press conference from 1:50pm-2:30pm at BASIS Upper School, 3434 E. Broadway. Press ID will be required.** BASIS is an independent charter school that was named Newsweek's Top High School in America in 2008. In addition, **BASIS School** is featured in the movie *Two Million Minutes: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solution*. The Tucson premiere of *Two Million Minutes: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solution* will be viewed later that evening at the Fox Theater: **this premiere showing is now sold out; 1200 tickets have been sold effective 9/29/09.** Gingrich and Sharpton helped launch the film by hosting a major education reform event on September 17th in Washington, D.C.

The film, conceived and produced by venture capitalist and entrepreneur Robert A. Compton, is a sequel to his 2007 internationally acclaimed film, *Two Million Minutes – A*



*Global Examination*. His first film analyzed how six students from the U.S., India and China prioritized their four years or “two million minutes” of high school and demonstrated that the Asian students were academically years ahead of their American peers.

Now, two years later, Compton unveils the sequel. In *Two Million Minutes: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Solution*, Compton discovers and reveals **BASIS** an open-enrollment school in the U.S. that teaches “ordinary” students at an extraordinarily high academic level. Michael Block, co-founder of BASIS Schools, points out, “Contrary to some assertions, BASIS neither hand picks its students, nor has any resource advantage over traditional public schools. In fact BASIS, like other charter schools in Arizona, receives a significantly lower level of funding than traditional public schools.” This school, located in Tucson, Arizona, beautifully demonstrates that American students are capable of competing academically with the best in the world given the right curriculum, the right teachers and the right inspiration and expectations for success.

“I was shocked to find what I consider to be the **world’s best high school** in Tucson, Arizona,” said Compton. “This school is educating its students at a level that is globally competitive and preparing them to compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. As Education Secretary Duncan and President Obama have both stated, charter schools are supposed to be laboratories of innovation that we can all learn from. The U.S. needs to take some pointers from this school and apply them widely across our public school systems to sufficiently prepare our students for the global workforce.”



President Obama selected Gingrich and Sharpton to find high- performing schools and determine what factors have lead to their success. The President is looking to boost achievement, halt the large drop-out rates, and have every student pursue some form of higher education, whether it is a certificate, associate's degree, or bachelor's degree.

Obama has repeatedly vowed to make the United States a world leader in education by increasing the number of college graduates. The students who succeed in school will enter a workforce that is becoming increasingly dependent on high-skilled jobs. When more skilled graduates enter the workforce the American economy will become more competitive in the global market.

### **Press Conference Location**

**BASIS School**

**3434 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**1:50-2:30pm**

**\*\*\*Press ID will be required for entry into the school\*\*\***

### **Movie Screening Location**

**Fox Theater**

**17 W Congress St**

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, 7pm**

**\$10.00 at the door**

**For more information visit [www.basistucson.org](http://www.basistucson.org). –**

**Note this event is sold out effective 9/29/09**

**\*\*\*\*\*Note: Mr. Gingrich and Rev. Sharpton will not be at the screening.\*\*\*\*\***

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