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BASIS Tucson among the top 20 US News and World Report Gold Medal” high schools in the US

Tucson—An analysis prepared for *U.S. News and World Report* ranks BASIS Tucson as one of the top 20 schools in the U.S. Placed among the top schools in the nation by *Newsweek* for two years running, the *U.S. News* ranking once again singles out BASIS Tucson as one of the premier high schools in the nation.

According to Carolyn McGarvey, Schools Director, “BASIS Tucson’s students and teachers are exceptionally dedicated. Receiving this distinction from *U.S. News* is not only an honor, but also a testament to their hard work.”

The new *U.S. News* ranking evaluates school performance according to a different set of criteria than *Newsweek*, and gives BASIS Tucson a “gold” distinction, ranking it as the 16th best high school in the nation. The ranking designates schools with students who *exceed* the standards on state exams, judges how well the school educates disadvantaged students, and measures the breadth and depth of college preparation through the number of students who take and perform well on at least one AP exam.

The analysis takes into account socioeconomic factors when evaluating students because, according to the report, “for most **but not all** schools, the challenge of educating disadvantaged students has not been overcome.” At BASIS Tucson, it has.

The report measures poverty by the number of students who receive free or reduced lunch and then measures those students against other economically disadvantaged students rather than the state average. Because BASIS Tucson does not provide lunches to the students, it does not report the number of students who receive free or reduced lunch to the state. Therefore, disadvantaged students at BASIS Tucson were held to the *same* standard as *all* other students in the state of Arizona in the *U.S. News* analysis; an outcome that comports well with the philosophy at BASIS.

According to the school’s co-founder Michael Block, “Our mission is to provide a world standard, rigorous, liberal arts, college preparatory education to all students, regardless of ethnicity, or economic status. This ranking proves we are holding true to our word and achieving our mission.”

The only other Tucson area school designated as a Gold Medal school by *U.S. News* was University High at #13; although University High unlike BASIS has selective admissions.

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