

# News Release



CONTACT: Bill MacKenzie  
Communications Manager  
Intel Corporate Affairs  
503-264-1330  
[Bill.mackenzie@intel.com](mailto:Bill.mackenzie@intel.com)

## **BASIS Tucson School Named Finalist for Intel Schools of Distinction**

SANTA CLARA, Calif., April 15, 2009 – BASIS Tucson School, an open enrollment charter school which draws its student population from the greater Tucson area, has been named a finalist for the Intel Schools of Distinction. The school is a high school finalist in science excellence. It is one of just 18 schools from across the United States named as finalists.

The annual Intel Schools of Distinction program honors U.S. schools that demonstrate 21st century teaching and learning environments and implement innovative programs that inspire their students to excel in the areas of math and science. Schools compete for \$1 million in grants and awards from the Intel Foundation and sponsoring companies.

"Improving math and science education is one of the critical issues we see facing the United States if it is to compete effectively in a global economy," said Wendy Hawkins, Executive Director of the Intel Foundation. "It is encouraging to see examples of such excellence from across the country. These schools launch their students on a path to lifelong learning with programs that are rich, exciting and demanding."

Emulating the European and Asian systems, BASIS Tucson teaches the sciences as separate subjects (biology, chemistry and physics) beginning in the 6th grade. This method allows BASIS teachers to introduce students to concepts in specific science disciplines much earlier than they would be in traditional American schools. By covering these topics early and often,

students are more prepared for the rigors of the AP centered Upper School curriculum.

BASIS Tucson also utilizes its proximity of the University of Arizona. Visitors from the University of Arizona Science Department often come the BASIS Upper School to help run labs dealing with topics such as molecular biology. AP Science students have one lab per week that follows the corresponding course taught at the U of A as closely, if not identically, as possible.

The Intel Foundation will award \$2,500 to BASIS Tucson and each of the other 18 Finalist schools.

On May 5, 2009, six of the 18 schools – including one elementary, one middle and one high school in both the Math and Science categories– will be selected to be honored for their extraordinary commitment to educational excellence and innovation. Each of these six schools will receive an additional \$10,000 cash grant from the Intel Foundation and an award package including curriculum materials, professional development resources, hardware and software valued at more than \$100,000 per school. Sponsors include SMART Technologies and Inspiration Software.

During September 13-15, 2009, representatives of the six schools will attend a series of events in Washington, D.C., beginning with a black tie Gala and concluding with an awards event on September 15 at which one school from this year's honorees will be named "Star Innovator."

The Star Innovator School will receive a \$15,000 grant from the Intel Foundation as well as additional products and services from the sponsors, bringing the value of the Star Innovator award to more than \$200,000.

The school winning this award must have a comprehensive program incorporating innovative and effective use of technology, engaging parents and the community in students' education, fostering professional development and teamwork, and delivering consistent achievement of high academic standards.

The finalist schools have achieved academic excellence in mathematics and science by embracing such 21st century learning skills as digital literacy, critical thinking and problem solving, as well as teamwork and community involvement.

The 18 finalists were chosen from both public and private schools and from rural, urban and suburban neighborhoods. The finalists, representing a wide

range of successful programs, are in two categories: Mathematics Excellence and Science Excellence.

The finalist schools in the Science Excellence category provide a rich science curriculum incorporating hands-on investigative experiences that prepare students for 21st century jobs. Programs encourage student achievement in sciences and engineering, while simultaneously helping students to become knowledgeable consumers of news and data in order to be active and informed citizens. Programs are designed to meet the needs of all students, incorporating a variety of instructional strategies, and meeting rigorous education industry standards and assessment benchmarks.

For more information about the Intel Schools of Distinction, visit [www.schoolsofdistinction.com](http://www.schoolsofdistinction.com).

Through the Intel Education initiative, Intel invests more than \$100 million annually in its efforts to accelerate 21st century learning. Intel's vision is to help equip young people with the skills required to succeed in today's workforce that will in turn fuel global economic growth and innovation. For more information, visit [www.intel.com/education](http://www.intel.com/education).

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**BASIS Tucson contact:** Ms. Arwynn Mattix, Associate Director, 480-289-2088, extension 1, [amattix@basisschools.org](mailto:amattix@basisschools.org); School website: [www.basistucson.org](http://www.basistucson.org)