



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2017

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VOICES COLLEGE-BOUND LANGUAGE ACADEMIES AWARDED COMPETITIVE FEDERAL CHARTER SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANT

The U.S. Department of Education has approved Voices for a \$2.7 million federal grant

San Jose, CA – Voices College-Bound Language Academies is one of the highest performing dual language schools in California. Open since 2007, Voices College-Bound Language Academies has devoted itself to serving socioeconomically disadvantaged and underserved communities. The U.S. Department of Education named Voices as one of seventeen charter public school organizations in the nation to be awarded a Charter Schools Program Grant. Voices takes its place among such nationally recognized charter management organizations as IDEA Public Schools, Hiawatha Academies, Rocketship Education and Success Academy Charter Schools.

“Receiving this grant is a testimony to the rigor, quality and success of Voices’ cutting edge model and program,” said Voices Founder and CEO Frances Teso. “We see the impact of our schools on the communities we serve and we see lives changing every day, but it is gratifying to have this caliber of evaluator recognizing Voices’ strengths.”

Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren’s office was the first to inform Voices that they had been awarded and to congratulate them on being recognized at such a prominent level.

Voices received a score of 99.3% in its evaluation for the grant, which was the highest score among the 17 other granted charter management organizations. Important reviewer comments include, “[Voices] has thoroughly demonstrated success in increasing academic achievement...for all students and for...subgroups” and “Voices has received clean audits with no findings every year since opening, maintains a balanced budget with positive cash flow, has developed strong reserves at its flagship school to mediate times of uncertainty, and maintains an excellent attendance rate...”

California District 30 State Assemblymember Anna Caballero will present Voices with a certificate to honor their achievement on October 10th, 2017 at the Grand Opening event for Voices Morgan Hill.

About the U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program

The U.S. Department of Education's Charter Schools Program (CSP) provides funds to create promising new public charter schools, to replicate high-quality public charter schools, and to disseminate information about effective practices within charter schools. Federal funds are also available to help charter schools find suitable facilities; reward high-quality charter schools that form exemplary collaborations with traditional public schools; and invest in other national initiatives that support charter schools. Approximately \$52 million in CSP Grants for Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools were awarded to 17 non-profit charter management organizations (CMOs) with a demonstrated success in improving student achievement. Grant funds may be used to expand enrollment by substantially increasing the number of available seats at a school, or by opening new charter school campuses. <https://innovation.ed.gov/>

About Voices

Voices College-Bound Language Academies has three schools in Santa Clara County, two in San Jose and one in Morgan Hill and was approved by West Contra Costa Unified School District to open Voices there in 2018. Voices' mission is to prepare all students for the challenges of higher education through the context of an academically rigorous dual-language program. In addition, Voices ensures students demonstrate high academic achievement and apply critical thinking skills while making sense of their role within their own culture and the greater society. Serving roughly 90% Latinos and 79% English Language Learners, Voices students are closing the achievement gap in the county. Voices is currently accepting applications at all four of its locations. To find out more visit: www.voicesacademies.org