

State Superintendent honors Desert Oasis, Aurora

By MARIO RENTERIA, Managing Editor | Posted: Thursday, February 15, 2018 1:15 am

Desert Oasis and Aurora high schools were recently honored by state Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson by being named “Model Continuation High Schools” this year.

Desert Oasis in El Centro and Aurora in Calexico are two of 32 schools in the state given the recognition that was published Monday.

“These model continuation high schools provide a space where students can feel a sense of accomplishment and increased confidence and receive strong educational support,” said Torlakson in a statement. “Creating an academically challenging yet encouraging school climate can help turn an at-risk student on the verge of dropping out into a high school graduate prepared for a future career or college.”

According to the state Department of Education, in the 2014-2015 school year, there were 460 continuation high schools reporting an enrollment of 60,027 students. However, CDE enrollment demographic reports from prior school years indicate that the total number of students served by these schools over the entire year averaged more than 116,500.

The press release from Torlakson’s office specifically highlighted three high schools from the state, including Desert Oasis.

“Desert Oasis High School in El Centro has a counseling staff that is exceptionally dedicated to preparing students for academic opportunities after graduation. The school has cultivated strong partnership with local community colleges, hosts college orientation and financial aid workshops, and allows dual enrollment classes on campus,” stated the press release.

Desert Oasis Principal Fernando O’Campo said the school’s focus on working with other education institutions is what’s helping students be successful.

“Desert Oasis High School has flourished over the years as our staff has provided various opportunities to all our students to be college and career ready after graduation and be productive members of our community,” O’Campo said.

The school has implemented AVID courses, partnered with Imperial Valley College, Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program and even has a Mock Trial team.



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Students leave campus after class at Desert Oasis High School in El Centro in August 2013. IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS FILE PHOTO