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California Business for Education Excellence Names  
Record Number of Public Schools to the 2012 Honor Roll

Business Community Recognizes Outstanding Public Schools and Districts throughout  
California for Closing Achievement Gaps, Increasing College-Readiness

Encourages All Schools to Learn from Higher Performers

Sacramento -- California Business for Education Excellence (CBEE) today announced a record number of higher performing public schools to its 2012 Honor Roll. CBEE named 2,108 Honor Roll schools overall, including 871 higher poverty schools that are increasing academic performance and closing the achievement gap, and 100 “STEM” schools that excel in science and mathematics.

The 2012 Honor Roll includes public elementary, middle and high schools recognized for demonstrating consistently high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. For high schools, Honor Roll recognition includes measures of college readiness. This year, CBEE also recognized 6 higher performing, higher poverty school districts that include a high percentage of Honor Roll schools, and that are distinguished for their academic achievement and closing achievement gaps.

“We have schools throughout the state that are getting it right for all students and this should not be a secret,” said Greg Jones, CBEE Chairman and past member of the California State Board of Education. “To ensure more of our schools succeed, we must change the conversation from being about fixing failing schools to one that focuses on replicating the success of schools like those on the Honor Roll.”

Over time, CBEE has identified a common set of success factors in higher performing Honor Roll schools and districts. These include high expectations for all students; ongoing collaboration among teachers to improve practice; targeted use of data to pinpoint challenges and monitor progress; continual intervention for struggling students; and mastery of content knowledge and pedagogical practices.

“Honor Roll schools are overcoming challenges and obstacles every day for all students and are especially succeeding with kids who have been historically underserved. Our goal is to highlight their results, and provide a voice to these outstanding educators so that their success can be emulated in other places,” said Jim Lanich, CBEE president.

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The Honor Roll list grew from 261 schools when the program began in 2005 to the current 2,108 for 2012. The number of Honor Roll STAR (higher poverty, high achieving) schools increased from 74 in 2005 in to 871 in 2012. A full list of the Honor Roll schools and districts can be found at: www.cbee.org.

The annual Honor Roll program is made possible with support from numerous businesses and organizations including State Farm, Macy’s, Edison International, Wells Fargo, Southern California Auto Club, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, the California Business Roundtable, and several private foundations. Chevron Corporation provided specific support in the creation of the STEM Honor Roll.

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**California Business for Education Excellence**

*The mission of California Business for Education Excellence ([www.cbee.org](http://www.cbee.org)) is to use the power of data to improve public education and close the achievement gap. Since 1998, CBEE has worked to focus businesses around a common agenda for high performing public schools leading to increased baccalaureate degrees and economic productivity. CBEE serves as the business community’s leading voice in education in California.*