

Wickenburg High School Selected for National Study

Recently we received word from the National Center for Education and the Economy (NCEE) that Wickenburg High School (WHS) has been selected as one of two schools in the U.S. to be studied regarding its implementation of the Excellence for All/Move on When Ready (MOWR) program. The study will entail University of Michigan researchers looking at how WHS deals with implementation of the new ACT Quality Core curriculum and also how the school deals with intervention programs for those students who are struggling.

Through the generosity of the Wellik Foundation, WHS has implemented a number of programs to assist students in the learning and intervention process. Our program is considered a model within the state of Arizona and is being considered for replication on the national level through the U of M study. We have a great staff at WHS and each individual is working hard to make the program a success.

The greatest challenge we have moving forward is to get the word out that by moving to the ACT Quality Core curriculum the rigor and expectation for students is dramatically higher. Students will need to work harder, study more and put forth tremendous effort to be successful. If they step up to the plate their reward will be that they leave WHS college and career ready. In other words, they can enter a post-secondary program and will not need any level of remedial assistance. Alternatively, if they don't meet this new academic challenge, they will require after school remediation while in high school and will potentially fail more classes.

I will be interested to see the results of the U of M study and trust that it will point to items which can make others successful. Wickenburg Unified School District staff are working hard to make our schools and community look good and I am proud of their efforts. As more information becomes available on this study I will be sure to pass that along to the community.