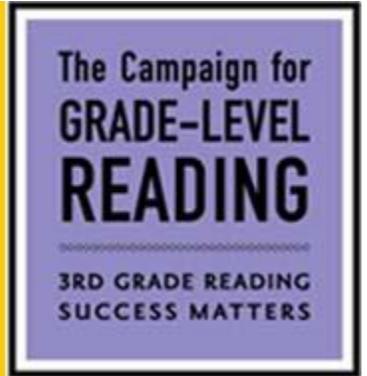


For Immediate Release



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TAHOE TRUCKEE ONE OF 30 HONORED AS A “PACESETTER” IN EARLY READING WORK

*Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Recognizes Tahoe Truckee Reads
For Demonstrating Real Progress In Helping Kids*

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 20, 2015 – Tahoe Truckee was named one of just 30 communities across the nation to be honored with a 2014 “Pacesetter” award by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. Tahoe Truckee previously received the 2012 “All America City” award and 2013 “Pacesetter” award.

Tahoe Truckee was cited for making “measurable progress” on student attendance outcomes – one of the three Campaign strategies. Tahoe Truckee Reads, the local Grade-Level Reading Campaign, saw a two percent reduction in chronic absenteeism. The percentage of Kindergarten through third grade students who were chronically absent in the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District fell from 8.4% in 2012-2013 to 6.5% in 2013-2014. This represents over 100 more students who were not chronically absent (missing more than 10% of the school year).

National tests show that two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders, and four-fifths of those from low-income families, are not reading proficiently. Reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a milestone on a child’s path to high school graduation and later success because it marks the transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.” Students who have not mastered reading by that time are more likely to drop out of school and struggle throughout their lives.

“Tahoe Truckee is to be commended as a national leader in this critically important effort,” said Ralph Smith, the managing director of the GLR Campaign. “We’re recognizing the communities that can demonstrate they’re really making a measurable difference in the lives of our children.”

Tahoe Truckee and the other award winners are part of a nationwide campaign – now operating in 167 communities -- that is committed to increasing the number of children who are reading at grade level by the end of third grade. The Grade-Level Reading Communities Network now includes 2,100 local

organizations at work in 41 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In joining the network, the communities develop formal plans to address three underlying challenges that can keep young children, especially those from low-income families, from learning to read well:

- School readiness — too many children are entering kindergarten already behind.
- School attendance — too many young children are missing too many days of school.
- Summer learning — too many children are losing ground academically over the summer.

The Pacesetter honorees were selected from among 76 communities in the Grade-Level Reading Communities Network that participated in a series of activities in 2014 designed to strengthen their work. Across the country, communities completed rigorous self-assessments of their progress, mobilized local constituencies through events such as Summer Learning Day and Attendance Awareness Month, and updated their Community Solutions Action Plans. This plan earned Tahoe Truckee the “All America City” award in 2012.

The GLR Communities Network is dedicated to narrowing the gap between children from low-income families and their more affluent peers. According to the U.S. Department of Education, that gap has widened significantly in recent years, with 80 percent of low-income kids failing to read proficiently in fourth grade compared to 49 percent of their more affluent peers.

The Tahoe Truckee Reads literacy campaign is a partnership between the Excellence in Education Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Community Collaborative of Tahoe Truckee, Placer and Nevada County First 5, Placer and Nevada County Health and Human Services. The goal of Tahoe Truckee Reads is to ensure that all children are reading proficiently by the end of third grade. For more information visit www.TahoeTruckeeReads.org.

The National [Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) was launched in May 2010 and is a collaborative effort of funders, nonprofit partners, business leaders, government agencies, states and communities across the nation to ensure that many more children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career and active citizenship. For media inquiries, contact Norman Black at norman@thehatchergroup.com or 301-656-0348.

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