



GROSSMONT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

# PRESS RELEASE

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## GUHSD NAMES MARC BARLOW EDUCATION INNOVATOR OF THE MONTH

*Monte Vista Teacher Recognized for Classroom Innovation*

(EL CAJON, CA)— The Grossmont Union High School District (GUHSD) has named Monte Vista teacher Marc Barlow as its *Education Innovator of the Month* for June. Superintendent Terry Ryan said, “We are honored to have Marc Barlow as a teacher in our District. He displays a passion for reaching the most challenged students.”

A Monte Vista High School teacher for ten years, Marc Barlow has been the driving force behind an innovative advisory program that is helping students succeed. Principal Paul Wargo said, “Marc Barlow is a champion of the underdog. He is a remarkable man and teacher who has changed our entire school and the way in which we do business.”

When Monte Vista became a Title I school, Marc coordinated their Title I funding. He spearheaded an innovative advisory program and a tutorial period that is now mandatory throughout the normal school day. These interventions are providing additional opportunities for students to get extra help.

Building on the momentum of Professional Learning Communities and through interdisciplinary partnerships, struggling students are now quickly identified and placed in a mandatory advisory class where they receive a half-hour of tutorial time, four days a week. In order to foster a deeper connection to their school, freshmen also have an advisory period for the first semester. Peer mentors work with freshmen to get them acclimated to campus life.

Marc’s innovations have touched the entire campus, where he represents a cadre of teachers who took an idea and turned it into reality. Marc credits the support of Principal Paul Wargo, for allowing him to think outside the box. His data proves that the impact of these programs is dramatically reducing D and F rates at Monte Vista. Marc said, “Students flat-out tell us that this is helping them to succeed, and parents are telling our counselors that they want their child in tutoring.”

Marc will return to the classroom to teach a special class he’s developed for those students who come to us in the fall having not yet graduated from the eighth grade. Clearly, this change agent is improving young lives daily, by equipping students with the necessary tools for a brighter future.

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