

# GESD News

**Contact:** Jim Cummings, APR  
Office: 623-237-7180  
Cell: 602-369-0919  
Fax: 623-237-7291  
[jcummings@gesd40.org](mailto:jcumings@gesd40.org)

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## **American receives TAP School of Promise Award**

**LOS ANGELES, Calif.** — Glendale American Elementary School in Glendale, Arizona, was surprised with the TAP School of Promise Award, which comes with a financial prize of \$5,000. The award honors a TAP school that has demonstrated accomplishments while in the early stages of implementing TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement. The Award was presented before 1,500 educators and policy leaders attending a special Saturday luncheon at the *11th National TAP Conference: Changing the Landscape for Educator Support and Evaluation*. Glendale American Elementary Principal Kellie Duguid accepted the award on the school's behalf.

TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement is America's leading education reform offering teachers multiple career paths, ongoing applied professional growth, instructionally focused accountability and performance-based compensation. The comprehensive implementation of TAP is proven to improve teacher effectiveness and student achievement.



**Glendale American Elementary School Principal Kellie Duguid (middle) accepts the TAP School of Promise Award from NIET President and CEO Dr. Gary Stark (left) and NIET Chairman and TAP Founder Lowell Milken (right).**

"I commend Principal Kellie Duguid's leadership in implementing TAP to turn Glendale American Elementary around," said Dr. Gary Stark, president and CEO of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET)—the organization that runs TAP and funds the TAP School of Promise Award. "It is exciting that TAP has already made a significant impact on Glendale American, and I look forward to following its continued progress."

American was an underperforming school when Principal Kellie Duguid arrived four years ago. A bold strategy was needed to improve teacher instruction and student achievement and TAP met those criteria. In 2009, Principal Duguid, Assistant Principal Sarah Saltmarsh and the American staff

worked diligently to prepare for TAP implementation in the 2010-2011 school year. After putting the comprehensive system of teacher support in place, Duguid and Saltmarsh expressed that they could never go back to a non-TAP environment.

Teachers have already reaped benefits from TAP's elements. TAP's weekly professional development "cluster groups" allow the faculty to analyze student achievement data as they work to implement and evaluate strategies that target specific student needs. The collaborative time each week has brought grade-level teams as well as the whole school together to grow, share ideas, and apply the cluster learning to the classrooms. As a complement to the cluster meetings, TAP's classroom observations of practice provide teachers with strategies that have improved students' development and learning. With TAP, teachers have been able to share a common language about strong instruction and raise their expectations to a new level.

The positive impact TAP has made on the school culture in a short amount of time impressed new Glendale Elementary School District Superintendent Joseph Quintana, who is now exploring TAP expansion in other schools.

Glendale American Elementary School joins Lincoln Middle School in Lincoln, Arkansas, as the only TAP School of Promise Award recipients this year. Introduced in 1999, TAP impacts more than 20,000 teachers and 200,000 students.

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**Glendale Elementary School District Office of Communications**  
**7301 N. 58<sup>th</sup> Avenue • Glendale, Ariz. 85301**