

The Daily World- Helena-Arkansas

November 3, 2011

KIPP Earns Growth Awards

By JENNIFER BARNHILL

KIPP Delta Public Schools and four of its teachers were recently recognized by the Arkansas Public School Resource Center with academic growth awards. The district received the APSCRC's annual District Academic Growth Award. The instructors each received Teacher Academic Growth awards.

The recipients are Michael Cummins, algebra and geometry teacher, Heather Saunders, eighth grade reading/English language arts teacher and Erica McMahan, kindergarten teacher.

All the awards are based on data generated by the Measures of Academic Progress from the North West Evaluation Association and the monetary rewards are presented through a generous grant from the Walton Family Foundation.

The district Award is given annually to two outstanding districts that provide evidence that over 60 percent of their students show growth in academic achievement. KIPP Delta received the \$10,000 award.

"KIPP Delta Public Schools administered MAP assessments at all grade levels in 2010-11 and are recognized for outstanding achievement with over 70 percent of their students meeting or exceeding growth targets in reading and math," stated Scott Smith, executive director of APSRC during the recognition ceremony. "...They serve as a model for others in the use of MAP data to guide and motivate students."

Cummins, Saunders and McMahan each received a \$1,000 award.

"...Cummins chose to substitute a 'one size fits all' approach to teaching for an individualized approach using MAP growth target data to motivate individual students reach their goals for the year," commented Smith. "Over 70 percent of Saunders' eighth grade students met or exceeded their growth targets in 2010-11," continued Smith.

"Erica McMahan's kindergarten students at KIPP Delta demonstrated outstanding growth in 2010-11 with over 85 percent of her students meeting or exceeding growth targets in reading and over 80 percent meeting or exceeding growth targets in math," he concluded.

The APSRC was created to provide educational support services and technical assistance to charter schools and rural school districts in areas of law, finance, technology and teaching and learning. APSRC also provides professional development training designed to share accurate, current information about the best practices and policy information.

For more information about the ASPRC Growth awards, please visit their Website at www.apscr.net.