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News Release

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LOS ANGELES SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT ROY ROMER HONORED WITH EDUCATION AWARD

Roy Romer, School Superintendent for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and, former Governor of Colorado, was recognized today for his outstanding contributions to American education.

Romer, who has implemented a number of successful education reforms since becoming superintendent of the second largest school district in the nation in 2000, was presented with the James Bryant Conant Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the education community by the Education Commission of the States (ECS). The Conant award is named for ECS' co-founder.

Under his leadership, Romer has tackled several education challenges in the LAUSD. Since July 2000, Romer has launched a successful instruction program that has resulted in significant improvements in math and reading scores, in some instances above the national average, among K-5 students in the District. He has also introduced a secondary literacy program for middle and senior high school students who are reading below grade level and has pushed forward a massive school construction program that will in the process of building 80 new schools and 60 existing school expansions to help relieve overcrowding at many schools in the district.

"It's a pleasure to return home to Colorado and to receive such a prestigious and important recognition from a group of educators that I respect so deeply," said Romer, who is attending the Conant Award banquet at The 2003 National Forum on Education Policy in Colorado. "This is a job I truly enjoy doing on behalf of the students of the Los Angeles Unified School District and I am humbled and appreciative of this honor."

Romer was credited for his forward thinking and the bold steps he has taken to improve education. "Not many people are as deserving of the Conant Award as Roy Romer," said Ted Sanders, ECS president. "He has positively touched the lives of millions of people. Roy exemplifies outstanding service to education and sets an example for all of us to follow."