



# *Queen Creek School District No.95*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **QUEEN CREEK SCHOOL NAMED ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION**

**QUEEN CREEK, Ariz., September 28, 2016** — U.S. Secretary of Education, John B. King, Jr., announced today that Jack Barnes Elementary school has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School. Jack Barnes Elementary is among 279 public and 50 private schools receiving this honor.

Schools are nominated for the award by the State Department of Education. Nominated schools then complete a comprehensive application about school practices. Schools may apply for status as Exemplary High Performing—among the top schools in a state—or Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing—schools making the fastest progress in the their state in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Jack Barnes Elementary received recognition for being **Exemplary High Performing (top 15% in Arizona)**.

Jack Barnes Elementary Principal Laura Valenciano, Jack Barnes Data Specialist Kimberly Cowden, QCUSD Superintendent Dr. Perry Berry and QCUSD Governing Board member Wendy Baggs will represent Jack Barnes Elementary at a two-day awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., to celebrate their hard-won achievements.

For more information about Jack Barnes Elementary school, please contact the office at 480-987-7400. For more information about the National Blue Ribbon Schools program, please visit <http://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>.

### **About QCUSD**

*The Queen Creek Unified School District is one of only nine districts in the state to have been graded "A" by the Arizona Department of Education for four consecutive years (2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2013-14). To learn more about the district, visit [www.qcusd.org](http://www.qcusd.org).*

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