



“Education...Just Different”

Algiers Technology Academy • Martin Behrman Elementary • Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary • William J. Fischer Elementary
Alice M. Harte Elementary • Edna Karr High • McDonogh 32 Elementary • Harriet Ross Tubman Elementary • O. Perry Walker High

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**ALGIERS CHARTER SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION RECEIVES
NEW TAP AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

ACSA is selected as an organization to receive surprise honor, \$10,000 for achievements and effective implementation of TAP

Washington, D.C.—The Algiers Charter Schools Association (ACSA) in New Orleans, Louisiana, was surprised with the new TAP Award of Distinction, which comes with a financial prize of \$10,000. The award was created this year to honor an organization for distinguished accomplishments and overall implementation of TAP™: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement. The Award was presented before nearly 1,000 educators and policy leaders attending a special Saturday luncheon at the **10th National TAP Conference: Leading Innovation through Teacher Effectiveness.**

TAP is one of America’s leading comprehensive school reforms, providing educators with powerful opportunities of multiple career paths, ongoing applied professional growth, instructionally focused accountability and performance-based compensation. The successful implementation of the elements *together* maximizes TAP’s impact on improving teacher effectiveness and achievement growth for all students.

“The climate in ACSA schools has changed dramatically with TAP—from one of isolation to a collaborative approach that connects the leadership team, staff, students and parents,” said Lowell Milken, TAP founder and chairman of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching, the non-profit public charity that operates the system. “The Algiers Charter Schools Association sets a shining example for our nation that systemic reform is not only possible, but probable, with the rigorous implementation of TAP.”

The Algiers Charter Schools Association rose from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina with a bold mission to provide high-quality education through TAP, as it was approved to oversee nine New Orleans conversion schools. Several of the schools were among the first to open post-Katrina for a historically underserved African-American student population plagued by poverty and upheaval. Seven of the nine

schools had been taken over by the Louisiana Department of Education due to their status as “failing” schools for five or more years.

With TAP embedded in the charter, ACSA educators and its more than 5,300 students achieved significant results. Stronger teacher skills have led to consistent value-added learning gains for two consecutive years. For the 2008-09 year, five of the eight schools with available value-added data achieved a “5,” the highest score possible and signifying "far above average" results compared to their peers across the state. Two schools earned a “4,” signifying "above average" results and one school received a “3,” signifying a solid year's growth. Teacher turnover in ACSA schools dropped to below six percent in the 2008-2009 school year from more than 20 percent in 2006-2007.

Led by CEO Dr. Andrea Thomas-Reynolds, ACSA is now in its second year of partnership with NIET in a federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant—helping to ensure that schools are able to attract, develop, retain and motivate high caliber teachers.

The TAP Award of Distinction is funded by NIET.

Launched in 1999, TAP now impacts more than 7,500 teachers and 85,000 students across America. For more information on TAP or the 10th National TAP Conference at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, visit www.tapsystem.org. To download media photos from the event, go to www.tapsystem.org/tapawards/tapawards.taf.

For more information about ACSA, visit www.AlgiersCharterSchools.org.

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