



Communications Office
Media Advisory
January 26, 2012

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Grant's CREATE Academy Changing Lives in Del Paso Heights

Activist Teachers Have turned Likely Drop-Outs into Star Students

Background: Last year's State Teacher of the Year, Dr. Kadhira Rajagopal, wasn't content to just impact the lives of the students with whom he directly worked. He teamed up with the Grant Union High School Principal and Twin Rivers USD to attempt to spread the success. Rajagopal asked eight Grant teachers to join him in an attempt to prove that even the most challenged kids can turn around with excellent teaching and support. They randomly selected 150 of the lowest performing incoming freshmen and used Rajagopal's innovative, intense teaching techniques. At the end of the first semester, the grades are in, and the change is remarkable. This group of 150 students with an average GPA below 1.0 is now averaging almost 2.5 and many are over 3.0! According to the statistics, these students have transformed themselves from a high likelihood of dropping out of school to a high likelihood that they will go on to a 4 year college.

What: The CREATE Academy will hold an awards ceremony honoring the students that now have a 2.5 or higher. For most of these students, it is the first time they have ever been recognized for their academic success. It promises to be a very emotional experience for everyone who attends.

When: Friday, January 27, 8am -10am

Where: Grant Union High School
1400 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95838

Who: Dr. Kadhira Rajagopal, 2011 State Teacher of the Year
CREATE Academy Activist Teachers and Students
Grant Union High School and Twin Rivers USD Staff

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The Twin Rivers Unified School District was created in July 2008, merging four North Sacramento area school districts to serve 28,000 Preschool through 12th grade students. In the first three years, graduation rates, attendance rates, and enrollment have increased dramatically.