

Appointment of Doris Alvarez, as new principal of Preuss Model School at UCSD

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HOOVER HIGH PRINCIPAL TO HEAD UCSD MODEL SCHOOL

Doris Alvarez, award-winning principal of Hoover High School, has been named principal of the recently-established Preuss Model School at the University of California, San Diego. Alvarez will assume her UCSD duties in December.

One of the most distinguished educators in San Diego, Alvarez has been at Hoover High School since 1986, the past 11 years as principal. Previous to that she was a vice principal at Correia Junior High School in San Diego, district counselor for San Diego City Schools, a counselor at Gompers Junior High School, a consultant to an educational textbook company, and a teacher at Southwest Junior High School and Anaheim High School.

The Preuss Model School was created by the University of California, San Diego and recently approved as a charter school by the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education and the state. The School's goal is to enable students from educationally disadvantaged schools to competitively qualify for admission to UCSD and similar universities.

Alvarez said of her appointment: "I am honored and excited to become part of the university's firm commitment to improve the preparation and increase the admission of underrepresented students into higher education. The Preuss School has great potential to become a model for innovative institutional practices that will extend to all corners of the K-16 educational community. The support and involvement of so many people inside and outside the university are huge ingredients in the School's recipe for success."

UCSD Chancellor Robert C. Dynes said of the appointment: "Dr. Alvarez is nationally recognized as an educator who will take courageous risks to improve student learning and to nurture effective classroom practices. She has served as a principal in a challenging educational environment, and is no stranger to the difficulties of achieving a college prep education for students who face poverty, language barriers and other societal handicaps. She is uniquely qualified with the experience, vision and commitment to insure that The Preuss School is a model for how best to prepare students for a university education."

San Diego City Schools Superintendent Alan D. Bersin said: "Dr. Alvarez exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding principal. She will carry into this new school an effective commitment to the district's mission to improve student achievement. I cannot think of a teaching professional more suited to represent our district in this innovative partnership of teaching and learning."

The Preuss School will offer a college preparatory curriculum to underachieving but talented low-income students who would be the first generation in their family to graduate from college. The first 100 students will begin classes in the fall of 1999. At steady-state, in the year 2003, the school will accommodate 700 sixth through twelfth graders.

In recognition of her educational leadership, the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) named Alvarez National Principal of the Year in 1997. Other prestigious national honors she has received include the 1995-1996 Milken Educator Award, the Freedoms Foundation Meritorious George Washington Honor Medal for Individual Achievement in 1996, and the Metlife/NASSP California Principal of the Year Award in 1996.

Alvarez received her A.B. and M.S. (Counseling) degrees from San Diego State University (SDSU), and her Ph.D. in Education jointly from Claremont Graduate School and SDSU.

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