

## Catalina Foothills School District Named 21st Century Learning Exemplar by P21

*60 Exemplars nationwide feature how innovation makes learning possible for all students*

TUCSON, AZ December 1, 2015 - P21, the leading organization advocating for 21st century learning for every student, has designated Catalina Foothills School District (CFSD) as an exemplar school district, as part of a nationwide initiative identifying models of exemplary 21st century learning practices that are preparing students for success across the United States.

Now entering its 4th year, P21's 21st Century Learning Exemplar Program shares case studies of schools and districts that have successfully transformed student learning through innovative and transformative practices that include collaborative teaching and learning, distributed leadership, student voice and choice, engaged community partnerships, a climate of achievement, and evidence-based practices into teacher practice, curriculum, assessment, and professional development.

The 2016 21st Century Learning Exemplars, including Catalina Foothills School District, were selected along with 16 schools and 3 districts through a rigorous application process, and evaluated for educational excellence and 21st century learning implementation.

"We are honored that our district has been selected as a P21 Exemplar Program, and we hope our fellow educators can draw inspiration as well as concrete learning models from our district. CFSD's selection demonstrates our ongoing progress and commitment to building a robust and responsive 21st century education system," says Dr. Mary Jo Conery, Associate Superintendent of CFSD.

"When we first began this work almost ten years ago, there were few resources available on the development and implementation of 21st century skills," remembers Dr. Conery. "The district was faced with the challenge of trying to foresee the future needs of students, how those new demands might impact our approach to student learning, and the complex process of implementation across a system of schools. Our successes are the result of highly committed educators and strong parent support. CFSD has a remarkable community that works together to support the learning experiences and opportunities we provide for our students."

"Whether the subject is robotics or Chinese or band," continues Dr. Conery, "Catalina Foothills School District is committed to preparing students well for college and career pathways, and civic life, through rigorous and relevant curriculum that advances the development of deep learning proficiencies and positive academic mindsets."

"Every student deserves to experience authentic 21st century learning" said Dr. Helen Soulé, P21 Executive Director. "P21 is proud to highlight the hard work exhibited by all P21 Exemplars as they redefine what teaching and learning means for students and educators in a world where learning doesn't stop."

Case studies on schools just announced, including Catalina Foothills School District, will be unveiled in 2016. Visit [www.p21.org/exemplars](http://www.p21.org/exemplars) for a list of current Exemplars, case studies, powerful learning stories, podcasts, videos, and more. #PatternsofInnovation

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The Catalina Foothills School District is Tucson's leading educational choice for PreK-12, educating many students living throughout the greater metro area. District schools offer a dynamic curriculum that engages students in deep learning taught by highly competent teachers who are held accountable for learning results – 97.5% of CFSD students graduate and 94% attend college. A CFSD education prepares students to become responsible citizens in the global community.

