

Delta County Independent

Commissioner's Cup presented to two Delta County schools

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By Pat Sunderland

Two Delta County schools were recognized during the inaugural Commissioner's Cup luncheon in downtown Denver Wednesday, Sept. 17. The cup is awarded by Dwight Jones, Colorado's commissioner of education, who visited Delta County in February 2008 to personally congratulate Mike Beard, the principal at Hotchkiss High School, and Todd Markley, the principal at Cedaredge Middle School, for "beating the odds."

The Commissioner's Cup recognizes the success of 39 schools across the state which are featured in "Profiles of Success," a report co-sponsored by the Piton and Donnell-Kay foundations and first released in February, that recognizes schools that are closing the achievement gap.

During the luncheon, the first edition of a "Best Practices Guide" was released. The publication and companion DVD offer a primer on strategies common to the 39 schools proven to improve student achievement. Both Beard and Markley offered their insights on the DVD.

Speakers at the luncheon included Governor Bill Ritter; Roy Romer, chairman of Strong American Schools and former governor of Colorado; Beverly Ingle, president of the Colorado Education Association (CEA) Commissioner of Education Dwight D. Jones; and Dr. Stephen Shogan, chairman of the Colorado Legacy Foundation. Anne Trujillo, news anchor of KMGH Channel 7 acted as master of ceremonies for the event.

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