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## **COEUR D'ALENE AND LAKE CITY HIGH SCHOOLS WIN THE GASTON CAPERTON OPPORTUNITY AWARD**

**COEUR D'ALENE, Id.** — Coeur d'Alene and Lake City high schools in Coeur d'Alene have been named 2015 Gaston Caperton Opportunity Award schools by the College Board for providing underrepresented students with the support they need to succeed academically. Coeur d'Alene and Lake City are two out of four high schools nationwide to receive the award in 2015 and will share a \$25,000 award to apply toward programs that encourage more students to attend college.

“All students deserve the opportunity to succeed. The Gaston Caperton Opportunity Award honors schools like Coeur d'Alene and Lake City that are making good on their commitment to deliver that opportunity every day,” said David Coleman, president and CEO of the College Board. “Today we celebrate Coeur d'Alene and Lake City high schools for showing how great classroom instruction, challenging courses, and daily hard work and practice make all the difference in the lives of students.”

College Board representatives announced the award for Coeur d'Alene and Lake City high schools at a celebratory event Nov. 6, 2015, at the annual College Board Forum in Washington, D.C.

### **Awards Reflect Importance of Access to Higher Education**

Created by former College Board President Gaston Caperton in 2001, the Opportunity Awards honor high schools that help expand access to higher education by providing students with rigorous academic offerings and innovative college-preparation programs. Selected by a panel of higher education faculty from across the country, winning high schools demonstrate significant and consistent growth in the number of underrepresented students and students taking college-level courses and applying to four or more colleges.

### **About Coeur d'Alene School District**

The new mission statement for Coeur d'Alene School District is clear: “invest in each student to prepare, challenge, and advance well-educated, resilient, and future-ready citizens.” For several years now, the district has taken the initiative of offering the PSAT/NMSQT® to all students in grades 9–11, and this work has paid off. The district has the highest composite SAT® scores of the 10 largest school districts in Idaho. The district has not only doubled the amount of Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) courses available to students but also Coeur d'Alene and Lake City schools combined have almost tripled their AP participation rate since 2010.

“We start with the premise that every student, regardless of his or her life circumstances, should be given the tools and opportunities throughout his or her K–12 career, especially in high school, to pursue and realize a dream of going to college,” said Coeur d'Alene Superintendent Matt Handelman.

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“We not only strive for excellence and hold high expectations for our students but also prioritize efforts and activities that help students have high expectations for themselves during their school years and set goals beyond graduation.”

In a district where 44 percent of students are enrolled in a free or reduced-price lunch program, both schools have incredibly high graduation rates, Coeur d’Alene at 95.8 percent and Lake City at 95.6 percent. The number of students in the district who enroll in a college or university immediately after graduation has increased 8 percent in the last five years. Under the district’s leadership, both schools have made the pathway to college a real opportunity for hundreds of students.

“It’s an honor to be recognized on a national level for our efforts in promoting success beyond high school,” said Handelman. “This is a truly remarkable accomplishment and a reflection of the quality and tireless work of our teachers, the commitment of our students, and the support of our families and community.” Coeur d’Alene district students know what is expected of them, and teachers challenge them all year, creating a formula for college readiness and success.

### **About the College Board**

The College Board is a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to college success and opportunity. Founded in 1900, the College Board was created to expand access to higher education. Today, the membership association is made up of over 6,000 of the world’s leading educational institutions and is dedicated to promoting excellence and equity in education. Each year, the College Board helps more than seven million students prepare for a successful transition to college through programs and services in college readiness and college success — including the SAT® and the Advanced Placement Program®. The organization also serves the education community through research and advocacy on behalf of students, educators, and schools.

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