



# International Center for Leadership in Education

## Continuous Improvement and Innovation



### La Quinta High School

#### La Quinta, California

2,800 Students

- 29% free and reduced lunch
- 48% Hispanic
- 10% English language learners

#### Challenge:

To improve declining test scores in the basic knowledge areas and to create a shared vision of school success by empowering teachers to make critical decisions regarding curriculum, instruction, and assessment through collaboration and teamwork.

**La Quinta High School**, a comprehensive high school on an attractive, well-kept campus, opened its doors in 1994. In July 2005, Donna Salazar took over as principal. Under her new leadership, the administration decided to incorporate additional best practices.



**La Quinta's base API score rose an unprecedented 46 points in 2007 compared to the state average increase of 7 points.**

#### Solution:

The International Center's *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric was used by the staff to identify strengths and areas of need. This led to a heightened awareness of the elements that exist in highly successful schools and the need to create a school culture that supports all learners.

**The school's major goals** included improving test scores across the curriculum and implementing programs and processes to raise student and staff expectations. La Quinta decided to use the support of the International Center to help coordinate a centralized approach and to identify researched-based tools to help them reach their goals.

Founded in 1991 by Dr. Willard R. Daggett, the International Center for Leadership in Education has a wealth of experience in assisting schools and districts in implementing organizational changes that translate into world-class curriculum, instruction, and assessment systems. International Center staff, Senior Consultants, Master Teachers and trainers share their experience and expertise in the management of change, in assisting educators to help students achieve high standards, in curriculum development and in customized school improvement solutions for schools and districts.

In partnership with the International Center, La Quinta High School first developed a strong shared strategic vision and then a comprehensive and integrated implementation plan to guide the process.



## Process:

Since attending the **International Center's High School Reinvention Symposium** in October 2005, **Principal Donna Salazar** and her Leadership Team have followed the procedures, processes and tools recommended by the International Center.

### 1. Site Visit/Needs Assessment Spring 2006

- An International Center Senior Consultant met with administrative, teacher and student groups to complete an external review using the *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric.
- The consultant composed a School Profile highlighting strengths and areas of need.

### 2. Strategic Planning

- The school's Successful Practices Network liaison worked with Donna Salazar and the Leadership Team to plan strategically for the coming year.
- The *Learning Criteria to Support Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships* was introduced as a tool to measure school success on state tests and beyond.
- The school identified data indicators to measure stretch learning, student engagement, and personal skill development for all students.
- Goal statements, actions plans, and timelines were developed.

### 3. Professional Development – Models Schools Conference, Fall Symposium, and Network State and Regional Meetings

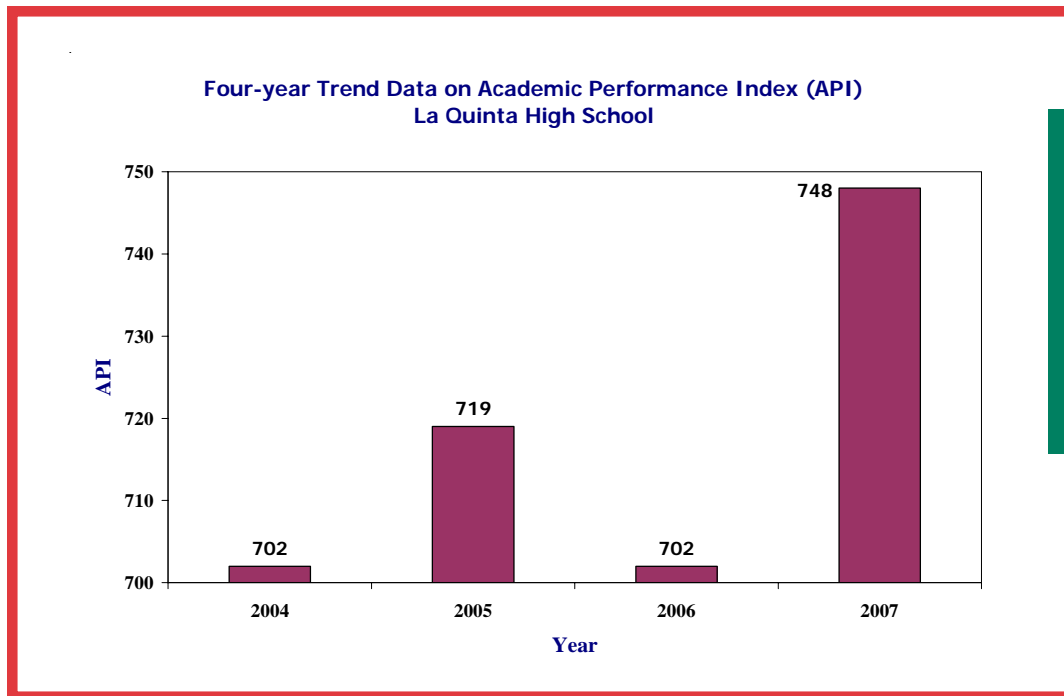
- Donna Salazar and members of the Leadership Team attended these events.
- The team engaged in strategic planning for high school reinvention.
- Workshops provided in-depth explanations of the *Rigor/Relevance Framework* and the *Learning Criteria to Support Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships*.
- Conference keynotes spelled out the challenges facing American education.
- Team members participated in sessions that featured model schools describing best practices and effective strategies.

"Our association with the International Center for Leadership in Education has contributed to significant, widespread improvement in all facets of our school: a large increase in our 2007 Growth API, a high pass rate on the state test (CAHSEE), increased student engagement, the forging of a common staff vision and a new awareness of the elements that are in place at highly effective schools – all of which we are implementing with the support, guidance, research and resources provided by the International Center."

**Donna Salazar, Principal, La Quinta High School**



# La Quinta credits the International Center for helping the school reach the next level of performance.



As a result, La Quinta's base API score rose an unprecedented 46 points in 2007 compared to the state average increase of 7 points.

#### 4. International Center's Education Leadership Institute

- Donna Salazar enrolled in this leadership development initiative in fall 2006.
- The Institute focused on developing effective leadership skills to support rigor, relevance, and relationships and exploring leadership styles and techniques.

#### 5. Internal Needs Assessment - Fall 2006

- Staff conducted a needs assessment of the school using the International Center's *10 Key Components of School Improvement* rubric.
- Through this process, staff developed a heightened awareness of the elements that exist in highly successful schools and the need to create a school culture that supports all learners.

#### 6. Implementation of the International Center's Rigor/Relevance Framework™

- Teachers were introduced to the *Rigor/Relevance Framework* through the site visit, Symposiums, and Model Schools Conference.
- Several teachers completed Quadrant D Gold Seal Lessons and submitted them to the International Center for editing and feedback.
- Staff was provided with access to the entire bank of Gold Seal Lessons through the International Center's Successful Practices Network.
- The International Center conducted a full-day workshop on the *Rigor/Relevance Framework* in August 2007.

#### 7. Successful Practices Network Membership/Liaison

- La Quinta continues to make use of the school's Network liaison to provide technical assistance.
- Activities have included alignment of goals and action plans to the Learning Criteria.

# International Center Consulting Services

supporting change and driving school improvement through

- ◆ making the complex simple
- ◆ data-based decision making
- ◆ rigorous and relevant curriculum and instruction
- ◆ strong relationships
- ◆ a passionate belief that ALL children can learn

## Experience

15-plus years of personalized support for K-12 educators and education leaders in 10,000 schools and districts across the nation

## Reputation

A trusted track record of expert and customized consulting services

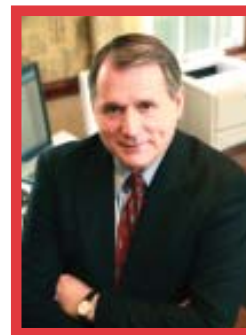
## Expertise

America's most respected education consultants with hands-on experience and expertise on a broad range of school improvement issues

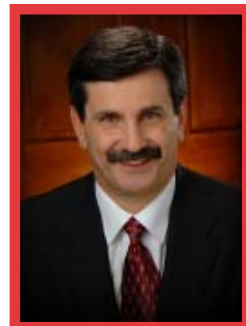
## Best Practices

Ongoing relationships and connections to a host of exemplary model schools and successful practices and a wealth of related research

**Dr. Willard R. Daggett, Ray McNulty, Larry Gloeckler, Dr. Tom Houlihan** and our team of skilled and experienced consultants represent the nation's finest educational leaders, practitioners and experts in leading, assisting, managing and implementing change at all levels of K-12 education.



Dr. Willard R. Daggett



Ray McNulty



Larry Gloeckler



Dr. Tom Houlihan



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**for Leadership in Education**