

**FROM: THE ANDRE AGASSI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

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**U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN AND  
U.S. SENATOR HARRY REID JOIN ANDRE AGASSI FOR  
A TOUR OF THE ANDRE AGASSI COLLEGE PREPARATORY ACADEMY**

*Agassi Prep graduated its first senior class in June with 100% of the students accepted to college*

LAS VEGAS, August 26, 2009—Andre Agassi, Founder of The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (“Agassi Prep”), joined Dr. Benjamin Sayeski, Chief Education Officer of The Andre Agassi Foundation, Marsha Irvin, Agassi Prep’s Chancellor and Nevada State Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford, to welcome U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on a tour of the school today at the invitation of Nevada Senator Harry Reid. The 2009-2010 school year began on Monday, August 17, with 614 students enrolled in the K-12 school.

“We are delighted that Senator Reid chose Agassi Prep as one of the schools to visit with Secretary Duncan,” said Mr. Agassi. The education initiatives of this administration underscore my foundation’s core mission: to transform education locally and nationally in order to create greater opportunities for children. The faculty, staff, parents, and most importantly, the students of Agassi Prep join me in thanking Secretary Duncan for his strong support of charter schools. We share the assessment that resources are critical to education, and that measurement is required to make resources meaningful. And we agree that while we must increase the investment in public schools, we must also increase accountability in our nation’s education system.”

“All Nevada residents know through the legislative accomplishments of Senator Reid, that he believes that education has always been at the heart of achievement in America,” said Mr. Agassi. “Senator Reid echoes Secretary Duncan’s call for additional resources in the classroom and his infusion of stimulus funds helped our K-12 system avoid drastic budget cuts during this past legislative session,” Mr. Agassi added. “A long-time supporter of Agassi Prep, we are grateful for Senator Reid’s foresight in advancing solar energy research and green technology implementation in our school.”

This year, Agassi Prep graduated 100% of its first senior class of 34 students, all of whom were accepted into colleges. Additionally, Agassi Prep, one of eight charter schools sponsored by the Clark County School Board, had the distinction of earning a “High Achieving” status for the elementary, middle and high schools from the Nevada Department of Education. A “High Achieving” designation demonstrates performance that is significantly above the expected levels of achievement indicating that the schools have exceeded State expectations for overall performance and/or have significantly reduced the percentage of non-proficient students.

Among the elements contributing to the “High Achieving” designation is Agassi Prep’s extended learning practice—students attend school for an additional two hours daily and an extra 10 days per year. The school has also adopted Balanced Scorecard metrics focusing on increasing student achievement; school, parent and community engagement, and accountability.

“I am pleased Secretary Duncan was able to visit a Nevada school that prides itself on achieving the same level of excellence that its namesake, Andre Agassi, achieved while becoming one of the best tennis players in the world,” Senator Reid said. “The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy is a great example of what can happen when we give schools, teachers and students the resources they need to foster innovation and achieve high levels of

success in the classroom. I thank Andre and everyone at the Academy for all they do for Nevada and these students.”

**About The Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy**

Founded in 2001 by tennis legend and philanthropist Andre Agassi – through his foundation and in partnership with the Clark County School District – the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy (Agassi Prep) is a public charter school that gives children in Historic West Las Vegas a first-class K-12 education that prepares them for excellence in college and beyond.

Agassi Prep was conceived in the belief that nothing has a greater impact on children’s lives than the education they receive, and that all children deserve outstanding academic experiences, regardless of the neighborhoods in which they live. Agassi Prep sustains a climate of hope and high expectations where children are nurtured with the focus and discipline they need to reach their potential and achieve their dreams.

The goal of Agassi Prep is to build character and inspire motivation and self-discipline while imparting the skills and knowledge children need to prepare for excellence in college and in life. Agassi Prep stimulates enthusiasm for learning through the provision of first-class resources, academic rigor, shared responsibility and a culture of respect in which every student, parent, teacher and administrator plays a valuable role.