Two SF Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Distinction

October 15, 2012 (San Francisco) – Alice Fong Yu Elementary and Lowell High have been named by the U.S. Department of Education as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2012. They are two of only 23 California public schools selected.

Superintendent Richard Carranza congratulated San Francisco’s award winning schools.

“The students, staff and community at Alice Fong Yu and Lowell deserve this great honor for their commitment to excellence,” said Carranza.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program (BRSP) is a U.S. Department of Education program. BRSP honors public and private schools from elementary through high schools, whose students achieve at very high levels or have made significant progress and helped close gaps in achievement, especially among disadvantaged and minority students.

Public schools are nominated by each Chief State School Officer (CSSO), including the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. Based on state data, the CSSO must certify that the nominated schools meet one of two eligibility criteria:

- **Exemplary High-Performing** defined as the achievement of the school’s students in the most recent year tested places the school among the highest-performing schools in the state on state assessments of reading (or English language arts) and mathematics, and disaggregated results for student subgroups, including students from disadvantaged backgrounds, must be similar to the results for all students tested.

- **Exemplary-Improving** defined as schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and have improved student performance to high levels in English-language arts and mathematics on state assessments or assessments referenced against national norms. Disadvantaged means students eligible for free or reduced-priced meals, who receive Title I services, are limited English proficient, migrant, or in need of special services.

Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored at a national awards ceremony on November 12-13 in Washington, D.C.
Details of the achievements of the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools can be found on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site at National Blue Ribbon Schools.

For more information on California's winners, please visit the California Department of Education's Web site at Blue Ribbon Schools.

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