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Arizona Department of Education  
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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## **Arizona Department of Education's Largest Ever Leading Change Conference Kicks-Off in Tucson**

***Over 500 Educational Leaders from Across Arizona Gather to Learn About Educational Best Practices and Innovative Programs Designed to Improve Student Achievement***

**Tucson, AZ, June 27, 2011**– Today, over 500 educational leaders from around the state are gathering in Tucson for the Arizona Department of Education's 2011 Leading Change Conference to participate in professional development opportunities and to learn about key educational issues such as: A-F accountability measures, new standards, the response to intervention framework (RTI), and principal and teacher evaluation systems, to name a few.

"It is always a pleasure to join with superintendents, charter holders, administrators, principals, and top teachers from around the state to learn from each other about how we can improve education for our students," said Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal.

Participants in the Leading Change Conference will participate in over 60 workshops covering a wide range of professional development and innovative educational programs designed to improve student achievement. Working collaboratively with their fellow educators, participants will see what is working in other schools and districts and take these best practices back to their own schools to improve student achievement.

In addition, participants will hear from nationally recognized keynote speaker John Antonetti. Mr. Antonetti is the former Director of K-12 Curriculum in the Sheridan School District in Arkansas. Other featured national speakers include Dr. Jan Hasbrouck, an educational consultant, researcher, trainer, and author in the areas of reading fluency, coaching and consultation, and assessing and teaching struggling readers; and Margaret Heritage, the Assistant Director of Professional Development at the National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards and Student Testing (CRESST).

"This three day conference is about bringing together the best and brightest of our educational leaders in one place to create a dynamic learning environment," said Huppenthal. "The ideas that they share at this conference will have a dramatic impact on their students for years to come."

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