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## AMPHITHEATER SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT SEARCH FOR SUCCESSOR UNDERWAY

Amphitheater School District Superintendent Vicki Balentine, Ph.D, has announced her retirement after twelve years of leading the northwest Tucson district. Her retirement will become effective at the expiration of her current employment contract, on June 30, 2012.

Dr. Balentine took the reins of Amphi in 2000, and during Balentine's term, the District achieved great successes. In 2005, district voters approved a maintenance and operations override for the District, providing an increase in funding for art, music and physical education classes, lower class sizes, more elective high school courses, and recruitment incentives.

In November 2007, voters approved the largest bond issuance in the District's history, providing up to \$180,000,000 for capital improvements throughout the District.

Also during her Amphi tenure, the U.S. Department of Education awarded a coveted teacher incentive fund grant of \$29,000,000 over five years to the District, creating a substantial pay-for-performance program at designated schools – one of the largest such grants in the nation.

In an open letter to District staff and community members issued last week, Dr. Balentine announced her retirement and expressed gratitude: "It indeed has been an honor and a pleasure working with you during these twelve years, and I am proud of our shared achievements in ensuring that Amphitheater is a district continually focused on providing an excellent education for all of our students."

Dr. Balentine was twice appointed to the Arizona State Board of Education by the Governor. She has served two terms as President of that statewide body. She also currently serves as an Executive Committee member and Treasurer of the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC).

During her tenure, Dr. Balentine has been honored for her work:

- Arizona School Administrators Association named Dr. Balentine its "All Arizona Superintendent of the Year" (large district, 5000+ students) for 2008;
- Inside Tucson Business recognized her as one of ten Women of Influence in 2007;
- In 2006, the University of Arizona recognized Dr. Balentine as an Alumnus of the Year; and
- *American Executive Magazine* featured her in their April 2008 Corporate Spotlight.

At its January 10<sup>th</sup> public meeting, Amphitheater's Governing Board initiated the selection process for Dr. Balentine's successor. The selection process will include community forums and a survey to obtain public input. The Governing Board also appointed an external consultant (the Arizona School Boards Association) to coordinate the selection process. More information about the search process, the public survey and the community forums will be available on the District's website: [www.amphi.com](http://www.amphi.com).

Founded in 1893, the Amphitheater District was named for the geography of the Tucson basin. Today the district covers a 109 square mile area. It is culturally and socio-economically diverse with over 2200 employees serving nearly 14,500 students through 21 schools and programs.

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