

The Colorado Springs School
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NEWS

DATE: October 18, 2007
For Release: Upon Receipt

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**THE COLORADO SPRINGS SCHOOL, HEAD OF SCHOOL ADDRESSES
SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AT SAIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GEORGIA**
"Cost Effective Sustainable Practices for Independent Schools"

Colorado Springs, Colo. – The Colorado Springs School (CSS) announces Kevin Reel, Head of School as recipient of the William L. Pressly Research Award. The award, given by the Southern Association of Independent Schools provided a \$5,000 grant for the purpose of significant research on topics and issues vital to excellence in education. Reel researched cost-effective sustainable practices for independent schools and will present his findings at the Southern Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference held October 21-22, 2007 in Atlanta, Ga. The conference will welcome heads of schools, assistant heads and other senior administrators to focus on the administration of independent schools. Additionally, the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) joins with the United Nations in using this decade to help all young people learn to address issues of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

"Heightening awareness about environmental sustainability and encouraging schools to become models of sustainable practice is a global imperative and an NAIS priority," commented Jefferson Burnett, Vice President of Government and Community of the National Association of Independent Schools. "Kevin's long standing commitment to sustainability is evident in his exemplary work at Westminster and now at Colorado Springs School. His leadership in this critical area is to be commended."

"To effectively prepare leaders of the next generation, schools need to build in each student the broadest possible perspective and sense of responsibility toward others," said Kevin Reel, Head of School at The Colorado Springs School. "Being responsible for others includes those people in other countries, or in the future, who pay a portion of the health costs for our consumption of resources."

With the leadership of Kevin Reel, The Colorado Springs School is exploring ways to incorporate sustainable practices and healthy environmental stewardship into the life of school.

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At CSS, we are examining our level of energy consumption and considering ways to reduce our "carbon footprint." Replacing the inefficient windows in our oldest building, the Trianon, with "low-E", double-pane, energy efficient glass is but one step. A \$20,000 grant from the Inasmuch Foundation has allowed the school to replace a few windows and to explore the full scope and impact of the proposed project. The replacement cost of all 72 windows in the Trianon is still being determined and additional funding sources will need to be secured.

"Many new questions become important: Are students aware of cause-effect relationships between the human condition and healthfulness of our surroundings? Are operating procedures at schools consistent with the lessons we hope to teach in the classroom," continued Reel.

CSS students are initiating a recycling program. Overall, a curriculum that builds connections between different disciplines and provides leadership and service opportunities for students helps young people to be more aware of and care about environmental consequences of human actions.

About Kevin Reel

Reel was installed as the 8th Head of School at The Colorado Springs School this fall after completing ten years as the Head of the Upper School at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Ga. At the national level, Kevin is involved with the publication of science education materials, developing innovative curriculum, and helping schools establish environmentally sustainable practices. He has written and spoken extensively on science curricular changes, and he has authored nationally-marketed review books that help prepare students for the AP Environmental Science and AP Chemistry examinations. Kevin was a featured speaker at the National Association of Independent Schools Institute for Sustainable Schools. He is one of the few educational leaders in independent schools who is LEED-certified by the US Green Building Council.

About The Colorado Springs School (CSS)

CSS offers experiential educational opportunities for preschool – 12th graders. Through superior academics and mentoring, The Colorado Springs School prepares students to think independently and to meet the needs of a dynamic world with leadership, ingenuity, problem-solving skills, and personal integrity. For more information on The Colorado Springs School, please contact the Director of Communications, Jessica L. James at (719)434-3506 or visit www.css.org.

About the Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

SAIS provides leadership, accreditation services and professional development resources that will strengthen member schools as they fulfill their missions. For more information on SAIS and the William L. Pressly Research Award, please visit www.sais.org.

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