

# Challenge Charter wins award

By Wendy Miller  
Volunteer Contributor

The Center for Education Reform, the nation's premiere education reform group, recognized Challenge Charter School as a National Charter School of the Year. The center identified 53 exceptional schools deserving this recognition from among all 3,940 charter schools in the United States. Challenge Charter School was a pioneer in the Arizona Charter School movement.

Founders, Principal Greg Miller and his wife, Pam Miller, executive director, were honored at an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. May 16.

"We commend Challenge Charter School and the other honorees for their achievement," said center President Jeanne Allen. "They are among the vanguard of a school choice movement that provides more than one million children an educational opportunity that might otherwise be unavailable."

After the ceremony, education writers Jay Mathews of the Washington Post and Greg Toppo of USA Today spoke to representatives from the schools at a National Press Club luncheon. The honorees had a chance to hear from Federal Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings and speak with



Submitted photo

**Challenge Charter School's founder and principal, Greg Miller, left, and his wife, Pam Miller, right, are presented with a plaque by Center for Education Reform President Jeanne Allen during a May 16 ceremony in Washington D.C.**

members of Congress at an event on Capitol Hill.

Challenge Charter School was the first official core knowledge school in Arizona, has always passed the state's adequate yearly progress standards and has the highest AZ Learns academic

achievement school profile of "excelling."

Of the 107 excelling elementary schools in Maricopa County — out of more than 1,000 schools — only seven had free and reduced populations 30 percent or more, and Challenge is one of

those seven schools.

The school was honored again June 25 by Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Horne and the State Board of Education.

Superintendent Horne and the board invited Challenge Charter School to the June 25 Arizona State Board of Education meeting. During the meeting, an awards ceremony was held, and Challenge Charter School was presented with a certificate of recognition for being named one of the National Charter Schools of the Year.

Dr. Karen Butterfield, Arizona's associate superintendent of academic achievement, introduced Challenge and spoke to the board and those attending about the high expectations that had to be met in order to receive Center for Education Reform's award and the honor of the Washington D.C. ceremony. Afterward, Challenge Vice Principal Wendy Miller addressed the board and bragged about the amazing team of educators, students and parents at Challenge Charter School.

Challenge Charter School is located at 5801 W. Greenbriar Drive.

Call 602-938-5411.

*Editor's Note: Wendy Miller is vice principal of Challenge Charter School of Glendale.*