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PRESS RELEASE

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Upland High Honored as 2026 California Distinguished School

UPLAND – Upland High School’s (UHS) dedication to expanding opportunity and supporting student success has earned the campus recognition as a 2026 California Distinguished School, a prestigious honor achieved through implementing programs and initiatives that help close the achievement gap for historically underserved student groups.

The recognition reflects UHS’ commitment to creating opportunities for all students through strong academic programs, targeted student support, and a culture that emphasizes high expectations and meaningful connections.

“At Upland High School, we believe every student deserves the opportunity to succeed,” Principal Dr. Martin Gomez said. “This recognition reflects the dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families who work together every day to ensure all students are supported, challenged, and inspired to reach their full potential.”

Upland High offers a wide range of programs designed to support student achievement and engagement, including over two dozen Advanced Placement courses, 11 different Career Technical Education pathways, a cohort-based dual enrollment program in partnership with Chaffey College, and specialized academic supports that help students build the skills needed for college and career success. The school also emphasizes a strong campus culture through leadership opportunities, student activities, and programs that foster belonging and connection.

In recent years, Upland High has demonstrated strong academic outcomes and continued progress for all students. During the 2024–25 school year, UHS achieved a 100% graduation rate for African American students, a significant milestone in the school’s efforts to close achievement gaps. For the past two years, the school has also earned Blue and Green ratings across all indicators on the California School Dashboard, the two highest performance levels that reflect strong outcomes and continued progress in areas such as graduation rates, academic performance, and college and career readiness.

Superintendent Dr. Lynn Carmen Day said the recognition highlights the District’s focus on equity and opportunity for every student.

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“This honor is a testament to the incredible work happening at Upland High School,” Carmen Day said. “Our educators are deeply committed to ensuring every student has access to the support, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive. We are proud of the Highlanders and grateful to the staff and families who help make this success possible.”

The California Distinguished Schools Program, administered by the California Department of Education, recognizes public schools that demonstrate excellence in student achievement and success in closing achievement gaps. Schools that receive the designation serve as models for other campuses across the state.

Upland High will be formally honored alongside other recognized schools at an April 24 awards ceremony at the Disneyland Hotel.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

UUSD_CADistinguishedSchool1: UHS has earned the distinction as a 2026 California Distinguished School for closing the achievement gap for historically underserved student groups.

UUSD_CADistinguishedSchool2: Upland High School principal Dr. Martin Gomez welcomes students to campus on the first day of the 2025-26 school year. UHS has earned recognition as a 2026 California Distinguished School.

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