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Today, Thursday, October 8, at 2:00 pm

**White House US Department of Education Official to
Present Holy Ghost Catholic School, Albuquerque
2009 Blue Ribbon Certificate for Excellence in Education**

***Winning the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award is the “Oscar” in the field of education
Dr. Noreen Duffy-Copeland, Principal***

**Holy Ghost Catholic School is the only school in Albuquerque and
New Mexico’s first Catholic School to receive prestigious award**

8th Graders’ scores in reading and math in top 10 percent of the Nation

Albuquerque, NM—Thursday, October 08, 2009-- Immediate Release—Today, Thursday, October 8, at 2:00 pm Mr. Juan Sepúlveda¹ the Executive Director of the White House Initiative in Education Excellence for Hispanic Americans will visit Holy Ghost Catholic School in Albuquerque to present the recently awarded Blue Ribbon Certificate for Excellence in education. The students and staff will gather in the school gymnasium to welcome the dignitary. Holy Ghost Catholic School is located at 6201 Ross Ave. SE, Albuquerque.

The US Department of Education awarded Holy Ghost Catholic School the *2009 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence in Education*. Holy Ghost Catholic School is the only school in Albuquerque and New Mexico’s first Catholic school to receive the prestigious award. **Holy Ghost Catholic School is one of fifty private/parochial schools and 264 public schools in the nation to be honored in Washington D.C. on November 2-3, 2009.**

These Blue Ribbon Schools have shown that all children can learn with appropriate supports. They are producing outstanding results for their students. Some have shown dramatic improvements in places where students are overcoming the challenges of poverty, and others serve as examples of consistent excellence that can be a resource for other schools. They are places where improved teaching and learning benefits every student, and where students are challenged to meet high expectations with the active support of teachers, parents and the community.

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan

Since 1982 the Blue Ribbon Schools Program has honored public and private elementary, middle and high schools that either demonstrate academic superiority (with students in the highest grade scoring in the top 10 percent on state or national assessments) or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement for disadvantaged students. **Holy Ghost’s 8th graders scores in reading and math were in the top 10 percent of the nation on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills last year.** Three other schools in New Mexico are honored for demonstrating significant improvement with a population of over 40% disadvantaged students. NCLB/Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence use data to both refine educational practice and to show evidence of student success. Contact: 505.256.1563

¹ In May 2009, the Obama Administration appointed [Juan Sepúlveda](#) to the position of executive director. In this capacity, he is responsible for directing the efforts of the White House Initiative in engaging Hispanic students, parents, families, organizations and anyone working in or with the education system in communities nationwide as active participants in improving the academic achievement of Hispanic Americans.