



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 22, 2017

Grimmway Schools Partners with Loyola Marymount University's Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership Institute to Provide Cutting-Edge STEM Training for Educators

Bakersfield, CA — To support its groundbreaking work in rural Kern County communities and advance STEM education, Grimmway Schools, local charter school management organization, has partnered with Loyola Marymount University's Innovation in Digital Education and Leadership ("iDEAL") Institute. Grimmway Schools is the first organization in Kern County and the first rural-focused organization in California to partner with iDEAL.

"Grimmway Schools is excited to partner with Loyola Marymount University's iDEAL Institute. Loyola's presence in Kern County represents an incredible opportunity for our faculty to be connected to a global leader in K-12 education training," explains Paul Escala, Executive Director of Grimmway Schools.

Grimmway Schools, a growing network of high-performing, college-prep public charter schools in Kern County, California, led by a home-office in Bakersfield, has entered into a two-year partnership with iDEAL to train teacher leaders how to systematically create a practice of mathematical and scientific thinking and cultivate a collaborative STEM culture within their learning communities. Grimmway Schools sought this partnership with LMU's renowned educational program to further strengthen its academic rigor and enable students to attain the skills necessary to become self-sufficient and independent critical thinkers.

The iDEAL Teacher Leadership Model will be implemented at Grimmway Academy Arvin and Grimmway Academy Shafter. Through an intense program, eligible teachers at Grimmway Schools will work towards either a Common Core Mathematics Leadership Certificate or Common Core Mathematics Coaching Certificate.

Through this partnership, the iDEAL Teacher Leadership Model seeks to transform math and science education by training, supporting, and growing a team of expert scholar practitioners (teachers) at Grimmway Schools. The ultimate goal of the program is to increase the number of students who are college- and career-ready to successfully pursue STEM.

Grimmway Academy Shafter

In August 2016, the Richland School District Board of Trustees approved a charter petition for Grimmway Academy Shafter, a K-8 public charter school. The school will open to serve 400 students on August 7, 2017, with grades K-4, and will grow to 750 students by 2021, with grades K-8. Grimmway Academy Shafter is modeled after the network's first school, Grimmway Academy Arvin.

Grimmway Academy Arvin

Grimmway Academy Arvin, a California Distinguished School, opened in 2011 and serves approximately 740 students in grades K-8. Grimmway Academy Arvin is located in the rural

community of Arvin and embraces a unique blended learning model of instruction. Combining best practices in education with wellness and healthy lifestyle principles, including an on-site edible schoolyard, Grimmway Academy Arvin students learn life skills that will support them on their path toward lifelong achievement and success.

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For more information, visit:

www.grimmwayschools.org

www.gaarvin.org

www.gashafter.org

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