

**Merrillville Community High School tapped as 2013 Model School
by the International Center for Leadership in Education**

Merrillville Community High School builds positive student behavior, decreases discipline referrals, and increases student performance

Merrillville, IN– April 24, 2013 – Merrillville Community High School has been selected as one of 16 model schools for 2013 by the [International Center for Leadership in Education](#).

With 2,400 students, Merrillville Community High School is the only large minority-majority high school to earn an “A” from the state of Indiana. Also boasting a 90% graduation rate, Merrillville employed a school-wide literacy initiative and mentoring program that resulted in positive student behavior, decreased discipline referrals, and increased graduation rate, all of which made the school an obvious choice as one of the International Center’s Model Schools. As a chosen school, Merrillville High School will share its most innovative practices at the 21st Annual Model Schools Conference, the nation’s premier event in K-12 education.

Associate Principal Lori Covaciu will present a session entitled “Balancing Behavior and Academics” to the thousands of educators from across the nation who plan to attend. The session will focus on how the leadership team supported teachers by setting clear and consistent goals and incorporating open ended response questions on assessments and grading them with a common rubric. In addition to increased graduation rate and improved behavior, these strategies led to a dramatic improvement in student performance.

“We are so pleased to be welcoming Merrillville Community High School as a Model School this year. They are using some truly remarkable strategies that have delivered clear results. I know the attendees will benefit from hearing about their most effective and innovative practices, addressing the new, more rigorous requirements and at the same time improving student performance dramatically by a number of measures,” said Bill Daggett, Founder and Chairman of the International Center.

The process of identifying and analyzing schools is based on the Learning Criteria, Common Core success, and innovative best practices that have led to rapid improvement in student achievement.

About The International Center for Leadership in Education

The International Center for Leadership in Education is one of the most influential education consulting companies in America. It is best known for identifying and disseminating successful practices to assist all students in achieving higher standards. [Willard R. Daggett](#), Founder and Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education, is recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move preK-12 education systems toward more rigorous and relevant skills and knowledge for all students. Dr. Daggett and his team of consultants have assisted numerous state education agencies and hundreds of schools and districts in their improvement initiatives. For more information, please visit www.LeaderEd.com.

About Model Schools

Each year, the Model Schools Conference attracts thousands of educators, who come to learn about exemplary elementary, middle, high schools that are ahead of the curve in driving improvement and excellence. Model schools are selected annually based on high student achievement in all subgroups, providing every student with a rigorous and relevant curriculum, personalized instruction, increased student learning time, parent and community involvement, use of data to make instructional decisions, and other best practices. This year's Model Schools Conference will be held in Washington, D.C. from June 30 – July 3. For more information, please visit www.modelschoolsconference.com.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTACT:

Dr. Tony Lux, Superintendent of Schools
219-650-5403

ICLE CONTACT:

Emily Hawkins, International Center for Leadership in Education
Phone: 518-723-2045
E-mail: ehawkins@leadered.com