For Immediate Release
July 26, 2017

Hilary McLean, Executive Vice President | E: hilary@linkedlearning.org | T: 916.248.4848

Carlsbad Unified School District Career Pathway Certified as Linked Learning Silver Pathway

Carlsbad, California – Today, the Carlsbad Unified School District’s Carlsbad High School Film Academy achieved Linked Learning Silver recognition through Linked Learning Certification. Recognition as Linked Learning Silver demonstrates the pathway integrates rigorous academics with sequenced career themed/technical courses, aligns work-based learning with students’ curriculum, and makes intervention and support services available to students. It also shows the pathway is tracking their progress through data and is striving for the highest levels of quality to prepare students for success in college and career.

“This is a milestone achievement for Carlsbad High School and Carlsbad Unified. This certification ensures that the Film Academy at CHS provides students with rigorous and aligned curriculum that will ultimately prepare students for college and career,” said Dr. Rob Nye, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services. “I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the teachers in the pathway as well as Dr. Porter and Director Arias for their support.”

The Carlsbad High School Film Academy is the first career pathway in the Carlsbad Unified School District to achieve this distinction by integrating sequenced career-themed courses with college preparatory academics, work-based learning, and supports for students to prepare students for success in college, career and life. The Carlsbad High School Film Academy was started in 2008, providing students in grades 10 through 12 a high school experience with an arts, media, and entertainment industry context.

Research by SRI International shows that students in certified Linked Learning pathways complete more college preparatory courses, are less likely to drop out, and are more likely to graduate than similar students in traditional high school programs. Also, students coming into Linked Learning with low achievement scores demonstrate greater academic success than similar students enrolled in traditional high schools. Additionally, English language learners in certified Linked Learning pathways earned more credits—equivalent to more than two courses—compared to their peers in traditional high school programs.

Linked Learning Certification incentivizes and recognizes high quality college and career pathways. Certification is built on a series of standards that aim to improve student outcomes and increase graduation rates. Linked Learning students that graduate from a certified pathway will be eligible to access benefits associated with each level of certification, including eligibility to apply for a Linked Learning scholarship, and access to an internship matching tool.
“Linked Learning Certification is an important signal to students and parents about pathway quality” said David David Rattray, chair of the Linked Learning Alliance Board of Directors and executive vice president of the Center for Education Excellence and Talent Development, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce of Linked Learning Alliance. “The certification system also supports and incentivizes continuous improvement in the pathway and in the pathway’s relationship with employers and the community partners.”

Since the release of Linked Learning Certification at the beginning of this 2017, over 100 pathways have registered to participate in the certification process, including pathways in California, Massachusetts, Illinois, Michigan, Texas, Kansas, and Saskatchewan, Canada.

###

**About Linked Learning Alliance**
The Linked Learning Alliance is a statewide coalition of education, industry, and community organizations dedicated to improving California’s high schools and preparing students for success in college, career, and life. Established in May 2008, the Linked Learning Alliance aims to build a collective voice and coordinate efforts to expand access to Linked Learning in California—an approach to high school that integrates rigorous academics with real-world learning opportunities in fields of engineering, health care, performing arts, law, and more. | www.linkedlearning.org