



## Armijo ES Recognized by U.S. Department of Education's Spellings

Armijo ES hosted U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings during a recent whirlwind visit to New Mexico in April.

The school was selected as a tour site because of its special partnership with Sandia National Laboratories through the professional volunteer teacher program. The program combined with the school's use of quality management principles and other factors, has enabled Armijo to make adequate yearly progress for three consecutive years.

"Congratulations on a job well done," Spellings said to school administrators. "You are a jewel in your community, and the eyes of the nation are upon you."

Students, along with the science volunteers, showed Spellings some of the projects they were working on about momentum and kinetic energy. As Spellings asked questions, students showed off their knowledge by explaining how they discovered scientific fact through trial and error.

Principal Dolores Vigil-Frank said the experiments are rooted in math and science and provide rigor and relevance to learning.

"I'm thrilled she's here," Vigil-Frank said of Spellings' visit. "We are very proud of our school, students and teachers."

Sandia National Laboratories hosts science nights at Armijo for students and parents. The science education focuses on student



*Pictured standing from left are Sandia National Laboratories volunteer Norb Tencza, U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, Armijo ES Principal Dolores Vigil-Frank and APS Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Everitt discussing math and science principles with students for their demonstration project.*

engagement and professional development in an effort to encourage more students to pursue science and engineering careers. Contributions from Lockheed Martin enable the programs. Spellings was in Albuquerque as a keynote speaker for the 7th Annual National Charter Schools Conference last month.

## Chicago Public Schools Principals Examine Armijo ES Style

More than a dozen principals from Chicago Public Schools got to see firsthand how quality management impacts



student learning and how they can take what they've learned and tailor the program's components to their individual schools.

Armijo ES principal Dolores Vigil-Frank said hers is a demonstration school for the quality classroom management principles based on the Baldrige Institute. As such, Vigil-Frank, through the APS principals' mentorship program, hosted the Chicago principals.

But the principals didn't just learn from other teachers - they learned from fifth graders who demonstrated the "plan/do/study" components they themselves use in the classroom to meet their learning goals.

*At right, Michael T. Johnson, principal at Reavis Math/Science Specialty School in the Chicago Public Schools district, listens as two students from Armijo ES demonstrate how they use quality management principles to improve their learning.*

"I was amazed at the level of articulation these students have," said Michael T. Johnson, principal at Reavis Math/Science Specialty School in Chicago. "They're very focused on education. I am so impressed with this."

Vigil-Frank explained that although implementation of the quality management style is difficult because it requires a high degree of organization at every level, all Armijo ES teachers use the management principles. If some teachers have difficulty, others will help them.

Each classroom supports the APS Educational Plan for Student Success and students assess their classroom work and goals on a weekly basis.

