Ventura Unified School District

Project Name: De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts

Project Director: Elisabeth Harris
Telephone: (805) 641-5165 E-mail: elisabeth.harris@venturausd.org

Number of Schools Served: 1 Number of Students Served: 800
Year 1 Funding: $850,000

Ventura Unified School District (VUSD), located in coastal southern California and serving 17,483 students, provides comprehensive public education in the city of Ventura and in western Ventura County. Ventura is economically segregated in many geographic areas. One such area is the western portion of the city, where De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts is located. De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts is one of four district middle schools, and it is the only Title I middle school.

VUSD created De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts, a new, comprehensive magnet program, to reduce Hispanic racial group isolation among middle school students and to stimulate social, economic, and ethnic integration. De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts will do this by offering innovative, educational practices in technology, visual and performing arts, and world languages to attract and retain a diverse student population. This magnet school aims to educate 800 students by the end of the grant cycle.