

For Immediate Release

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Press Contact

Amanda Oberg
Communications Coordinator
303-866-5193
amandaoberg@csi.state.co.us

CSI Schools Earn State's Top Awards

DENVER, CO (March 6, 2019) – Three charter public schools authorized by the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI) were recognized today at the Colorado Department of Education's Awards Ceremony for academic achievements in the 2017-2018 school year.

Dr. Terry Croy Lewis, CSI Executive Director, shared, "As a charter school authorizer, CSI holds its schools accountable for high standards of performance. These schools have risen to the challenge and have demonstrated great academic success, and we are very proud of their accomplishments."



CSI Director of Evaluation and Assessment, Ryan Marks (center) at the awards ceremony on March 6, 2019.

Colorado Early Colleges Parker: Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award, John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award

[Colorado Early Colleges Parker](#) opened in 2014 as part of the Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) network of schools. CEC Parker is a Distinction school that ranked in the 97th percentile among Colorado schools for the 2017-2018 school year. The CEC Network provides students in grades 6-12 the opportunity to start working on college-level courses as soon as they are college ready, allowing students to earn a combination of high school and college credits as they pursue a high school diploma and an Associate degree or higher. The network has [recently received approval](#) to expand to Windsor this coming fall.

CEC Parker has earned the [Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award](#) for schools that demonstrate exceptional student growth. Also, this is the third year in a row that CEC Parker has earned the [John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award](#), which honors schools that demonstrate exceptional academic achievement over time.

Thomas MacLaren School: John Irwin Schools of Excellence Award

[Thomas MacLaren School](#) in Colorado Springs has recently expanded to serve over 800 students in grades K-12. Thomas MacLaren offers single-gender classrooms, focus on primary source texts as opposed to textbooks, and a performance-based program that includes participation in the school-wide orchestra program.

Thomas MacLaren has earned the [John Irwin Schools of Excellence award](#) for 7 years in a row.

Victory Preparatory Academy Middle State Charter School: Colorado Centers of Excellence Award

[Victory Preparatory Academy Middle State Charter School \(VPA Middle School\)](#) in Commerce City has received the [Colorado Centers of Excellence Award](#) for the third year in a row. This award recognizes schools that enroll a student population of at least 75% at-risk pupils and demonstrate the highest rates of student longitudinal growth. VPA Middle School served over 200 students in the 2017-2018 school year, with 95% identifying as minority and 83% qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. VPA Middle School also received the [ELPA Excellence Award](#) for achieving the highest English language and academic growth among English learners.

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About the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI)

CSI is a statewide charter public school authorizer in Colorado, currently authorizing 39 schools from Durango to Steamboat Springs, Grand Junction to Colorado Springs, and serving over 18,000 PK-12 students. We believe that every child should have access to high performing school choices and are committed to the creation and success of high-quality charter public school options that offer diverse educational models to best meet the needs of every child. Our approach to authorizing charter schools balances autonomy and accountability. We offer our schools the flexibility to choose the educational models and methods that best meet the unique needs of their students and communities, and we hold them accountable to clear expectations for academic, financial, and organizational performance. Learn more at www.csi.state.co.us and follow CSI on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).