



**Odyssey School of Denver's Jon Exall  
Receives National EL Education Teaching Award**

**2015 Klingenstein Teacher Award recognizes exemplary teaching  
and instilling "citizen scholarship"**

San Diego – October 28, 2015 - EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning), a leading K-12 non-profit that is meeting the national challenge to raise student achievement, today announced the recipient of the 2015 Klingenstein Teacher Award – Jon Exall, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Odyssey School of Denver.

The award, created by EL Education's founding board chair, Lee Klingenstein, is given to an exemplary EL Education teacher who is judged by his or her peers to have most successfully transmitted to students the essence of EL Education culture, building exemplary character, driving outstanding academic achievement, and instilling an ethic of "citizen scholarship." Mr. Klingenstein honored Mr. Exall with the award today at EL Education's National Conference in San Diego.

In her nomination of Jon, fellow Odyssey teacher Ali Morgan remarked: "We each carry a snapshot of Jon in our mind as we work through our day's demands: a snapshot of Jon conferring with a student during recess, an image of Jon and his students wading into frigid waters to take water samples, a vision of Jon at his desk long after the last class, digging into detailed feedback for each student. We carry these snapshots as reminders of why our hard work is good work. We find inspiration in Jon's model because he holds the student at the center of his work with vigilance and with joy."

Nominees for the Klingenstein Teacher Award:

- Instill in students a desire to learn, a responsibility for their own education, together with good academic results;
- Inspire students' participation in good citizenship in its broader sense, in the classroom and throughout the school community; and
- Model the value of "we are crew, not passengers" in their classroom and throughout the school - a founding principle of EL Education.

"Jon inspires us to learn, to take responsibility, and do good in academics in many different ways, like positivity, preparation, enthusiasm, and his special power of making things interesting," said Diego Montez, a former student of Jon's.

Wyatt Cooper, another former student in Jon's crew, or class, described how Jon "instilled in students a desire to learn, take responsibility for their own education and achieve good academic results," one of the criteria for the award.

"Jon is an EL rockstar. Whether it is pushing my learning in class, or making our crews better citizens, Jon would win a gold medal," Wyatt said.

As the Klingenstein Teacher Award recipient, Mr. Exall will receive a \$5,000 grant and will present a Master Class at the EL Education National Conference in 2016.

### **About Odyssey School of Denver**

Odyssey School of Denver is a diverse, public, K-8 Expeditionary Learning school in northeast Denver. A public charter school within Denver Public Schools, Odyssey teaches students how to learn through a focus on academic achievement, critical thinking and social responsibility, preparing them for high school and beyond. We are relentlessly student centered. At Odyssey, how we learn is as important as what we learn. We insist on high expectations for learners and we live by our commitment to crew and community.

### **About EL Education**

EL Education (formerly Expeditionary Learning) is a leading K-12 non-profit that is meeting the national challenge to raise student achievement across diverse schools and communities. Combining challenging work with the joy of discovery and pride in mastery, EL Education prepares students to become contributing citizens with both the skills and character necessary for success throughout college, work and life.

Our portfolio of instructional materials and coaching services draws on 20-plus years of success in more than 150 schools in the EL Education network, serving 4,000 teachers and 45,000 students in 30 states. Based on founding principles of meaningful work, character and respect for teachers, EL Education's offerings transform teaching and learning to promote habits of scholarship and character that lead to high student achievement, regardless of student background. In addition to success on standardized tests, EL Education students demonstrate critical thinking, intellectual courage and emotional resilience; they possess the passion and the capacity to contribute to a better world. For more information, visit [www.ELeducation.org](http://www.ELeducation.org).

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