



## Grants assist District in Improving Student and Teacher Learning

The 2014-2015 Maryvale school year continues to be enriched by the receipt of 2 grants from New York State. *The Strengthening Teacher and Leader Effectiveness (STLE 3) Grant* has supplemented the district in providing training, resources and systems implementation in 4 key areas: Student Achievement, Principal and Teacher Leaders, Data Driven Instruction, and Academic and Behavioral Intervention Systems. Grant funds have been specifically invested in:

- Technology and curriculum to enhance student engagement and impact student achievement.
- Professional development for all educators to increase student achievement through curriculum workshops.
- Leadership and skill building training for principals and teacher leaders.
- Creation of a Teacher Leader 'Design Team' to assist in designing and implementing key initiatives to support the district's Strategic Plan.
- Systemic development of a Maryvale Professional Learning Community (PLC), every educator is a member of a collaborative team that meets regularly to establish goals for student achievement.
- Research and implementation of a *Maryvale 5 Step Data Driven Instruction Process* for teachers to collect and analyze data for determining instructional strategies.
- Creation of a district partnership with Niagara University for transformational leadership and understanding the effects of poverty.
- Implementation of a Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS) at the middle and high school to directly increase student engagement and achievement.

The second grant, *The Strengthening Principal and Teacher Leader Dissemination (STLE-D)* grant, was awarded just last November in partnership with the Depew Central and Clarence Central School Districts. This unique partnership or consortium of districts has allowed for sharing of best practices, building cooperative relationships with area educators and providing access to educational scholars, trainers and researchers. The overarching goal of this grant is to improve principal and teacher leader effectiveness by increasing their capacity to

improve the academic achievement and college and career readiness of students. The grant provides funding for 35 teacher leaders and 7 principals and assistant principals from Maryvale to participate in various professional development and training opportunities, such as:

- Presentation from 2013 Teacher of the Year, Greg Alhquist, who delivered an inspiring speech on the impact of effective teachers and the importance of building a growth mindset for students and teachers.
- Collaborative study of the book *Mindset* by Carol Dweck, which describes the importance of the set of attitudes people approach challenges with and how one set of attitudes – a growth mindset- allows for greater success and accomplishment.
- Technology applications, Google classroom and Edviation, an online video learning library.
- Leader in Me training from the FranklinCovey Educational organization which presented *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.
- Workshops on designing quality formative assessments and response to intervention (RtI).
- Curriculum design sessions presented by international expert, Grant Wiggins on the Understanding by Design model.
- An institute on literacy instruction facilitated by specialists from the Teachers' College at Columbia University.

Teacher leaders will serve as turnkey trainers for Maryvale faculty on the knowledge and skills they develop through their participation in either grant. Both grants have aided the district in fulfilling its mission of growing, developing and preparing students for the opportunities and challenges of college, careers, and citizenship.