



## **Dr. Steve Chestnut**

**Superintendent  
Maricopa Unified School District**

Dr. Steve Chestnut brings a distinguished record of achievement and excellence in school administration to his position as Superintendent of the Maricopa Unified School District. Appointed to this post in July 2012, Dr. Chestnut took the helm of a school district in one of America's fastest growing communities: the City of Maricopa, AZ. Since assuming this mantle, he has been working hard to address the challenges facing the school district.

In the past year, Dr. Chestnut has facilitated several initiatives on behalf of the school district. A strategic plan was developed with a stakeholder committee and approved by the Governing Board in September, 2013. Six district schools became charter schools at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year. All nine schools are developing an academic focus which will begin with the 2014-15 school year. The generous \$1.3 million grant from the Ak-Chin Indian Community is being used this year to provide five additional math teachers at the three secondary schools, five additional paraprofessionals to support reading instruction at the elementary schools, and the installation of wireless technology in all nine schools.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Chestnut served with distinction as a superintendent of three school systems in the State of Washington. As superintendent of the Selah School District in Selah, WA, he oversaw significant multi-million growth in both operating and capital budgets, and his leadership and accomplishments were recognized in each year of his tenure. In 2009, Dr. Chestnut was the recipient of the WASA Leadership Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators. In 2010, the Washington Association of School Administrators named him the Washington State Superintendent of the Year. In 2011, Dr. Chestnut and his school board also received the 2011 School Board of Distinction honor from the Washington State School Directors Association. As Superintendent of the Moses Lake School District in Moses Lake, WA, Dr. Chestnut led a dramatic improvement in student achievement in that system as measure by annual state tests. During his tenure between 1997 and 2006, he helped drive efforts that resulted in the passage of six consecutive operating levies; led the development of the Grant County Skill Center; passed a \$34 million capital project bond and completed \$79 million in capital projects. In 2002, the efforts of Dr. Chestnut and his board were recognized with the School Board of the Year honor from the Washington State School Directors Association.

Dr. Chestnut is a member of the American Association of School Administrators, having served on the Governing Board from 2004-07. He is also an active member of the Arizona School Administrators Association and the Pinal County School Administrators Association. For ten years he served as an adjunct professor at Heritage University and Eastern Washington University. Dr. Chestnut served as a leader and board member in many Washington State educational organizations and associations, as well as several civic and community nonprofits.

Dr. Chestnut received his Doctorate of Education from Seattle University, his Master's of Education from Central Washington University, his Master's of Business Administration from the City University of Seattle, and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Pacific Lutheran University.

Dr. Chestnut and his wife Kellie reside in Maricopa.