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**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **American Heritage Academy Announces New Leadership at the Cottonwood and Camp Verde Campuses**

*Cottonwood, AZ. – September 13, 2012:* Tony Rhineheart, the new Superintendent of American Heritage Academy (AHA), announced two new Principals for their Cottonwood and Camp Verde campuses. Colleen Kerr, brings more than two decades of experience as an educator to her new job as principal of AHA's Camp Verde campus. Ron Miller, a 13 year AHA Instructor and former Camp Verde Assistant Director, is the new Principal for their Cottonwood campus. The principal vacancies at both campuses were due to the retirement of AHA founders Steve and Vickie Anderson. American Heritage Academy is also now part of Edkey, Inc., which is a charter school management company with over 20 schools.

Colleen Kerr has been a resident of Camp Verde since 1987. She holds two Master's Degrees in Elementary Education and Educational Leadership with a Principal Certification, Reading Specialist, Early Childhood, and English Language Learning Certifications.

Principal Kerr shared that although there have been some changes, the philosophy and structure that makes American Heritage Academy unique and academically successful will continue.

*"Our students will continue to learn the classics beginning in Kindergarten and continue offering unique activities such as: violin, ballroom dancing, archery and sports. We will also continue our community service programs and special events,"* Principal Kerr explains.

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AHA Camp Verde upcoming events include: the October Family Fall Festival, December Christmas Concert, Salvation Army Bell Ringing Fundraiser, and Christmas Parade participation. In January, AHA is planning a special event to honor Civil Rights Day and Benjamin Franklin's Birthday. The Daddy and Daughter Dance, Mother and Son Dance, as well as a Poetry All Star event will occur in February. March is the all about science and art. May brings the annual Shakespearean Day, Ballroom Dance Competition and Water Day events.

New AHA Cottonwood Principal, Ron Miller, began his 13 year career with AHA as a 7th and 8th grade Science and Math Teacher when the school was located in Clarksdale. He also spent eight years at the Cottonwood campus teaching 7<sup>th</sup> to 12 grade students Earth Science, Leadership, Yearbook and Photography. Principal Miller was the former Assistant Director for the Camp Verde campus for three years. During his time at the Camp Verde campus he also earned his Master's Degree in Educational Technology.

*"This year will be an action packed year of activities for our Kindergarten through 12th grade students," Miller shared, "we will continue using our proven classic approach to education with a creative twist because when learning is fun everyone wins."*

Today, September 13th, AHA Junior and Seniors will head out to Jackpot Ranch for a leadership campout designed to enhance student camaraderie, leadership skills, and lifelong goal setting activities. In December, the Greeks and Romans will go to war on the schools sports field as part of a history project and science students will compete in the school's annual Nerdathon.

American Heritage Academy is a non-profit 501-C-3 public charter school that was founded in 1995. AHA promotes America's founding principles through a classical liberal arts education fostering personal greatness, community service, strong academic and leadership skills, while reaffirming hope in a caring environment. Small class sizes with a target ratio of 22 students per teacher enhances individualized learning. This year both campuses earned a B grade by the Arizona Department of Education. American

Heritage Academy's Cottonwood campus is located at 2030 E. Cherry Street in Cottonwood. The Camp Verde campus is located at 132 General Cook Trail. To learn more visit [www.americanheritageacademy.org](http://www.americanheritageacademy.org). Students are still being accepted at both campuses. To learn more call the Cottonwood K-12 campus at (928) 634-2144 or the Camp Verde K-8 campus at (928) 567-0462.

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