

BLM/Phoenix Union School District Partnership Recognized: Approximately 150 people attended the February 15, 2011, event held at the Phoenix Union High School District to honor the Bureau of Land Management's Phoenix District (PDO) for its initiative to employ, educate, and engage youth from all backgrounds in America's natural and cultural heritage. The PDO's Youth Initiative Program at the Franklin Police and Fire High School was the focus of the recognition ceremony, which included BLM Arizona State Director Jim Kenna as honored guest speaker.

The BLM/Phoenix Union partnership provides education and employment opportunities to urban-based youth. BLM instructors have taught several wildfire training courses, certifying 40 students for seasonal employment. Dean Fernandez, BLM-PDO firefighter and Franklin High instructor has played a key role in this partnership.

Several Metro-Phoenix media outlets covered the event, including the *Arizona Republic* and *Channel 3 TV*, highlighting the hands-on fire training and career opportunities for current and past students of Franklin Policy and Fire High School.