



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 15, 2011**

**CONTACT:**

**Tracy Kenner**  
480-874-2326  
[tkenner@isaz.org](mailto:tkenner@isaz.org)

### **International School of Arizona Hosts AFSA Conference in Scottsdale, AZ**

**Scottsdale, AZ – February 15, 2011** – The International School of Arizona (ISA) hosted the annual conference of the Association of French Schools in North America this month. For the first time, the conference was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, with 90 participants from 43 schools from across the United States and Canada.

Principals and Directors of School came together January 31 – February 1 for two days of meetings and presentations on issues affecting French schools in North America today. The first day focused on the results of international evaluations of students and their impact on French curriculum teachers. On the second day, school leaders participated in workshops on topics such as financial aid, sustainability of the schools, social benefits, marketing, and technology.

ISA Academic Director Anne-Cecile Scherer commented on the importance of these school leaders meeting to share ideas on how to educate bilingual students in a changing world environment. "A new focus on bilingual and bicultural education is needed to help North American educators prepare our students to be competitive in a global marketplace," said Scherer.

ISA also recently extended its knowledge of international education to a representative from an English immersion school in Germany. ISA hosted Renee Flibotte from the University of Rostock on February 9, providing perspective and advice on providing an academically advanced curriculum in an immersion environment. As part of a 3 year grant program, Flibotte is working with the Laage Grundschule school in Laage, Germany. The findings of her group's research will be the first on immersion education to be published in German.

#### **About AFSA**

The Association of the French Schools in North America (AFSA) is a membership organization of elementary and secondary schools in the United States and Canada, all of which are accredited by the French Ministry of National Education. The official French curriculum taught in these schools is enriched by aspects of North American culture and educational practice, and by the mastery of English as it is spoken in the United States and Canada. AFSA's member schools educate bilingual, bicultural students, whose academic excellence prepares them for entrance to the finest European and North American universities.

#### **About International School of Arizona**

The International School of Arizona is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) Elementary and Pre-School offering French and Spanish immersion tracks. ISA was founded in 1997 to fill an unmet need in the Phoenix Metropolitan Area for children to obtain early foreign language learning in a multicultural setting

ISA's educational programs offer students the opportunity to learn another language and culture in a full immersion environment. Students gain a global perspective and obtain skills that enable them to communicate with a wide range of people, appreciate other cultures, become flexible thinkers and enrich their lives. Each year new language class options and cultural activities are added to the school's offerings for the community at large. ISA continues to evolve into a valley-wide resource and community asset.

For more information, please visit <http://www.isaz.org>.