



**Arizona Interscholastic Association**  
7007 N. 18<sup>th</sup> St; Phoenix, AZ 85020  
602-385-3810; fax: 602-385-3779

---

## NEWS RELEASE

---

### **FREEPORT-McMoRan TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NFHS COACH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

PHOENIX, AZ (March 4, 2008) – The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is pleased to announce a partnership with the Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation to provide scholarships for coaches taking the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) “Fundamentals of Coaching” course in Prescott, Bagdad and the communities of Greenlee and Graham Counties

Since being launched in January 2007 the NFHS Coach Education program has become the gold standard for coach education in this country with over 18,000 coaches successfully completing the course. Currently, 39 states and the District of Columbia have adopted “Fundamentals of Coaching” to satisfy their coaching requirements or have agreed to endorse and promote the course.

Harold Slemmer, Executive Director of the AIA, believes that partnerships with foundations such as Freeport-McMoRan are extremely important as Arizona strives to provide professional development and education opportunities for all interscholastic coaches. “Improving the quality of all teacher/coaches working with the interscholastic students in our state is one of the key strategic goals of the AIA” Slemmer says. “We are delighted that the Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation recognize the value and importance of supporting our coach education program and providing the financial support to enable coaches in their operating communities to participate in this important program.”

“The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course provides a unique, student-centered curriculum for interscholastic teacher/coaches, assisting them in creating a healthy and age-appropriate sport experience that supports the academic mission of our member schools,” said Chuck Schmidt, AIA Assistant Executive Director. “The course addresses the needs of our schools as an affordable, accessible and relevant educational experience.”

“Supporting the professional development of coaches, who influence the youth with whom they interact, will create strong future leaders and communities. We are glad to have the opportunity to support this endeavor,” said Angie Harmon, Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation.

In addition to providing support for coach education, funding from Freeport-McMoRan will be used to provide parent education at AIA member schools in Pima, Thatcher, Safford, Duncan, Morenci, Clifton, Bagdad, and Prescott.

**Media Contact:** Brian Bolitho; AIA Director of Media Marketing; [bbolitho@aiaonline.org](mailto:bbolitho@aiaonline.org); 602-385-3822

#### **About Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.**

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. (FCX) is an international mining industry leader based in North America with large, long-lived, geographically diverse assets and significant proven and probable reserves of copper, gold and molybdenum. FCX conducts its operations primarily through its principal operating subsidiaries, PT Freeport Indonesia, Phelps Dodge and Atlantic Copper.