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# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Charter School Team Continues State Championship Reign**

GILBERT, AZ – Leading Edge Academy Gilbert Early College (LEA) is proud to announce that the Girls' Varsity Volleyball Team has defended its title as the Charter Athletic Association Class 2A State Champions for the second consecutive year. The LEA Lady Spartans defeated the Heritage Academy Heroes in an exciting match that had both teams trading the lead back and forth, with a fifth and final set deciding the championship. The championship tops off their final season record of 23-3. This was the Lady Spartans fourth appearance in the state championship game, they were CAA Class 2A State runners-up in 2011 and 2012.

Junior outside hitter Kristin Peplinski says great chemistry led to another State Championship, "We couldn't have done it without our coach, and the great team chemistry. It's a huge honor to be State Champions again."

Shelbie Bixler, sophomore middle blocker, stated the field was a lot fuller this year, "I think it's great that we got to play in the State Championship again, and this year it was a lot harder because of all of the new schools in our division. It was an honor to play against Heritage at the ASU-Wells Fargo Arena. I'm still soaking in that moment."

LEA Lady Spartans head coach Katie Bradley explained what makes a winning team, "I train my girls to not only play the game of volleyball but to also understand the technical, statistical, and strategy side of the sport. I am proud of their character, work ethic, growing volleyball IQ, and execution throughout 2014 season!" Coach Bradley played with Arizona's professional volleyball team, the Arizona Sizzle, in the US Premier Volleyball League. During college, she played volleyball for NCAA Division 1, Wichita State University.

Volleyball is just one of the many competitive sports offered at the charter school, alongside basketball, soccer, cross country, softball, and baseball.

Leading Edge Academy Gilbert Early College maintains a high standard of academic rigor, sporting an "A" rating for academic excellence. With an emphasis on college prep, the charter school pays tuition for students who wish to dually enroll at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in their junior and senior years.

"We're proud to see the dedication and success of our students payoff, both in sports and academics," said Ron Body, Executive Director of the Leading Edge Academy Charter Network.

Leading Edge Academy Gilbert Early College is a 7th-12th grade school located at 717 W. Ray Road, Gilbert, AZ 85233. [www.leadingedgeacademy.com](http://www.leadingedgeacademy.com)

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