

Superintendent Report
January 17, 2017

Before I start with my recognitions tonight, I'd like to let you know that we have added an online form to make it easy for anyone in Tucson Unified or in the public to let me know about people who are doing wonderful things in the district and are candidates to be recognized in this forum.

The form is available on our website. The direct URL is: **<http://www.tusd1.org/recognition>**.

Now, let's go on to tonight's recognitions.

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First up tonight we'd like to bring up our very first #TeamTUSD Community Partner. For the past year, we've featured teams within the district staff—and this year we are starting to feature community teams who help with our schools and students.

Our first partner team is **Living Streets Alliance**! Come on up!

Living Streets has been working with our campuses for several years. They recently completed a wonderful mural installation outside Pueblo Gardens Pre-K-8 thanks to a grant from KaBOOM.

Here's a **video** to show you the work, then we'll hear from Vanessa Cascio and Evren Sonmez from Living Streets.

(Living Streets spokesperson speaks.)

We have a special poster to present to you from the dedication of the murals and your very own #TeamTUSD poster. We thank you!

We also have four **Pueblo Gardens** students to recognize for their contributions to the beautiful mural. First up we have **Joseph Romero-Hurtado** and **Itzel Macias**. Both students spent multiple weekends volunteering and coming to the mural that was part of the community improvement project to help the artist with detail work. We also have students **Valeria Vasquez** and **Isabella Figueroa** who designed and help paint two intersection murals of the 120 foot mural. What a great show of teamwork! Thank you, please come on up.

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I am very excited to announce that **Tucson High Magnet School** is the next high school to get new uniforms for band and other music programs! This is possible because of the hard work our Finance Department puts in to maximize rebates through our P-Card program.

You might remember that Rincon/UHS got new uniforms with P-Card rebate funds last year. We plan to provide new uniforms to each high school over the next few years.

We can't wait to see our Badgers in their new uniforms, which should be ready for the 2017-2018 school year.

I'm also pleased to tell you about a recent investment we've made in our high schools from the P-card fund. We've allocated \$88,529 into our weight rooms to help our student athletes get in shape for their work on the field.

A big thank you to the finance team for helping us stretch our dollars and reinvest in our students!

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We have some athletes from around the district to honor tonight. I'd like to start off with **Rincon High School** football standout **Ty Grigsby**.

Ty is a running back who broke the big-schools record state record with eight touchdowns in Rincon's game against Buena. He was also named a player of the week by the Arizona Cardinals. He was the only player from Tucson to earn that distinction this season.

We were there when the Cardinals came down to honor Ty, and we broadcasted it live on Facebook. Take a look!

[Play video](#)

Congratulations, Ty! Please come up with your family!

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Next I'd like to congratulate the **Sabino High School** girls swim team. The team won the 3A State Championship, and Coach Melanie Paulsen was AIA Girls Swim Coach of the Year. The team also won relay championships. In the 200-meter relay, the winning team was Skylar Dikeman, Beatrice Oliver, Margaret Oliver and Kaylin Farnum. In the 400 Free Relay, the winning team was Skyar Dikeman, Mikaela Spry, Margaret Oliver and Kayline Farnum.

Congratulations to the entire Sabino Girls Swim Team!

I'd also like to congratulate Lisa Sartori from Sabino, who was named the AIA Boys' Swim Coach of the Year. Please come up!

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Our next athletes to recognize are our middle school city champs for girls basketball. Congratulations to the **Mansfeld Magnet Middle School** Girls Basketball team for taking the championship for the second year in a row.

Coach Daphne Russell says the Mansfeld Lady Bulldogs have retained a perfect record for two years running and have played with grit and heart.

Can I ask the members of the Mansfeld team, their team managers, coaches and principal to come on up?

As an FYI, we also had a city tournament for boys basketball, and Secrist Middle School took the title. They are celebrating together tonight and are coming in next month to be recognized.

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I would like to tell you about two outstanding brothers who were featured recently in the Arizona Daily Star for their efforts to help the homeless. Twice a week, **Fernando and Joaquin Flores** get up before dawn and get to Southside Presbyterian Church by 4:30 a.m. to help get things ready for the church to serve meals and coffee for the homeless later in the morning.

Their jobs: Help set up chairs and tables and brew the coffee. They then make their way to school. Fernando is a freshman at Tucson High, and Joaquin is in fifth grade at Ochoa Community Magnet School.

The boys say they have gotten used to those early mornings and it feels good to help members of their community. They are shining examples of service and caring for all of us.

Thank you, Fernando and Joaquin for your dedication and caring. You make us all proud. Please come up to be recognized!

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Last month we cut the ribbon on a new field at **Ochoa Community Magnet School**. This was a great morning, and the students at the school are excited that they will have a new field where they can play soccer and other activities.

We have a video from that day. Can we run that, please?

[Play video](#)

We have some 5th grade students here from Ochoa who would like to tell us about their school. Come on up!

Their teacher, Ms. Julie Elvick, is here as well.

END OF REPORT