

# **District Recognitions**

**January 30, 2018**

**Melisa Pippen** and **Mona Rutherford** were named the 2017 Junior Achievement 60th Anniversary Teachers of the Year.

- Both are CTE teachers at Tucson High Magnet School.
- Junior Achievement provides training, materials and support to bolster the chances for student success.
- Students who participate in Junior Achievement programs demonstrate a significant understanding of economics and business concepts.
- Thank you to these two outstanding teachers for their dedication to providing our students with this opportunity.

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The **Roskruge Cougars** are the City Champs in both boys basketball and girls volleyball.

- Congratulations to coaches **Dale Lopez** (boys basketball) and **Edward Contreras** (girls volleyball) and their teams for such an awesome accomplishment.
- Our director of interscholastics, Herman House, says that each and every school performed well and showed great sportsmanship throughout the tournament.
- Let's get the players and their coaches to come on up for group photos.

Girls' Volleyball

**Araceli Arellano**  
**Mireya Barreras**  
**Ariana Bettini**  
**Alexis Bojorquez**  
**Bryanah Diaz**  
**Dayanarra Dixon**  
**Ariella Duarte**  
**Marisol Duarte**  
**Nevaeh Garcia**  
**Alejandra Gudino**  
**Anastajia Hall**  
**Julissa Lopez**  
**Lizette Lopez**  
**Abigail Mariscal**  
**Mia Mejia**  
**Litsy Meza**  
**Virginia Molina**  
**Isabella Montano**  
**Sophia Montaño**  
**Rubi Moreno**  
**Anna Stover**  
**Esperanza Valencia**  
**Zeta Zajac Sarmiento**

Boys' Basketball

**Elias Aguilar**  
**Juan Amado**  
**Carlos Alvarez**  
**Francisco Argote**  
**Joseph Bailey**  
**Esteban Benitez**  
**Marcus Coleman**  
**Julian Cruz**  
**Leo Cruz**  
**Dana Dixon**  
**Pedro A. Encinas**  
**Pedro S. Encinas**  
**Robert Escalante**  
**Joseph Garcia**  
**Adam Gonzalez**  
**Elias Ferran Gonzalez**  
**Alvin Palacios**  
**Noé Romo**  
**Cruz Urena**  
**Andre Villalobos**

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Next we would like to recognize Santa Rita's agriculture teacher, **Josh Ruddick**, and his school based business, "Santa Rita Sprouts."

- Mr. Ruddick and Santa Rita's agribusiness students run "Santa Rita Sprouts," which is a Career and Technical Education student organization.
- Through their efforts, important industry partnerships have developed with Real World Scholars, Aquagrove Build and Rain Garden Watershed management Group.
- The students have completed impressive service-learning projects including: tree planting, recycling and campus clean-up efforts and adopting Lincoln Park West. They serve as environmental education mentors at Tully and Steele Elementary and donated student-made-soap to people affected by Hurricane Henry.
- Let's have Mr. Ruddick and his students come up for a photo.

Seniors

**Alexis (Lexie) Francione**

**Ashley Urquijo**

**Justin Deon**

Juniors

**Haden Pero**

**Jason Hamilton**

**Cyler Collins**

Sophomore

**Charity Ellsberry**

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Next, I would like to recognize our hard-working **counseling department**, which puts on our annual College Night at the TCC.

--About 150 post-secondary institutions and military representatives and a college based in Switzerland attended to give students information about their programs. About 3,000 individuals attended the District's College Night, which is open to all students across the state.

--Tammy Hille, our counseling coordinator, Beth Counts and Karen Ward work tirelessly to put on this event each year, and they do a fantastic job. They are helped by a great team of counselors from throughout the district as well.

--This is one of the biggest events for the district and is a huge resource for students who are exploring their options after high school.

--Thank you to the Counseling department and team for providing this opportunity each year.

Please come up for a photo.

**Tammy Hille**, Guidance & Counseling

**Tabitha Chetri**, Tucson High Magnet

**Christina Stephens**, Oyama & Tolson Elementary

**Tori Bacal**, Rincon High

**Beth Counts**, Guidance & Counseling

**Alejandro Menchaca**, Pueblo High

**Karen Ward**, Guidance & Counseling

**Wanda Buchanan**, Catalina High

**Jenny Miranda** – Catalina High

**Saydee Ruiz** – Palo Verde High Magnet

**Lisa Weber-Lowrie** – Sabino High

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**Cholla High School** had a record number of IB Diplomas awarded this year!

- 11 students earned an IB Diploma, which means they have the opportunity for college credit and additional scholarships.
- This is an incredibly prestigious honor. Students received their official diplomas in October.
- Additionally, 64 students earned their IB Certificates for their coursework.
- Total scholarships for the 80 IB students in the Class of 2017 was \$5.8 million dollars
- Universities accepted to: Bowdoin, Coe College, Cottey College, Grand Canyon University, NAU, ASU, UA, Western New Mexico State, Wartburg College

Earning an IB diploma takes a lot of work. Here are some of the requirements over the two-year program:

--In addition to college-level courses in English, History, Math, Science, Foreign Language and Fine Arts, students must complete three core components which include Theory of Knowledge, Extended Essay and Community Service.

--Completion of 28 college-level assessments including interactive orals, presentations, research investigations, science experiments, fine arts compositions and exhibitions.

Congratulations!

Some of the students who earned IB diplomas are with us this evening. Please come on up when I call your name.

**Christian Alegria**

**Maria Contreras Jimenez**

**Jose Garcia**

**Keannu Gison**

**Roberto Gonzalez** - \*Bilingual IB Diploma

**Maksim Gusev**

**Amanda Lopez** - \*Bilingual Diploma

**Iliana Loya**

**Deanna Mireles**

**Jimmy Nguyen**

**Andres Vasquez**

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Also from **Cholla High School** we have a junior, **Adriana Noriega**, who is an outstanding example of how we can give back to our community.

- The Arizona Daily Star included her in their series about young Tucsonans who make us optimistic about the future.
- Here are just some of the volunteer activities Adriana participates in:
  - The Metropolitan Education Commission's Youth Advisory Council/Tucson Teen Congress, where she represents her peers in discussions on education policy and quality in Pima County.
  - The Governor's Youth Commission, where she is one of two teens from Pima County. There, and through organizations, she advocates for greater awareness among teens about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse.
  - As part of the Commit to Action program, she developed a project to support the education of Syrian refugee children. In Tucson, she collected school supplies and more than \$300 to purchase education necessities. She donated all of it to the local resettlement agency Refugee Focus.
  - In the midst of volunteering, she is in student council, the Arabic and National honor societies and all of the rigor that accompanies an International Baccalaureate program.

Adriana, please come on up!

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To end with, I have a really special message we received from a Kellond Elementary School parent. Here's what she emailed in:

"I really want to let you guys know about one of your elementary schools--Annie Kellond. You have a few people here who I think should be recognized for their kindness.

"Our 7-year-old son has had health problems his whole life but recently was diagnosed with cancer. Your nurse-assistant Tammy has always been supportive and kind with him. She is an amazing woman, and without her during this time, it would be so much worse.

"Then there is his teacher, Mrs. Laird. She has also gone above and beyond to make sure he is properly taken care of while at school.

"Another amazing woman you have is Ms. Keisha, the counselor, who has a very kind heart.

"The Principal is also a very supportive and kind woman.

"This group of women has made such a great impact on how our son and our family is handling this and I want you to know these women are a handful of rare people to find in a school system!"

Would the Counselor – **Keisha Coleman**, Health Assistant – **Tammy Malloy**, Teacher – **Dara Laird**, and Principal – **Brenda Meneguín** please come up? Thank you for the excellent customer service and support provided to our families!

**END OF REPORT**