

## Superintendent's Report 03.25.14

TUSD sent 70 TUSD students in grades 7-12 to the **Arizona Indian Education Association Youth Conference** this year. The Governing Board and I would like to honor two of those students who were recognized with scholarship awards at the conference, which was held earlier this year.

AIEA is a non-profit organization comprised of educators and community members dedicated to improving the K-12 and college education of American Indian students.

The goals of the Youth Conference are:

- To provide youth the knowledge and skills to achieve their academic and career goals
- To honor youth and their ability to transform our communities in a positive way
- To inform youth on educational and career opportunities

This year's two winners from TUSD are **Nadira Mitchell**, a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student from Utterback Magnet, awarded as a Junior High Student of the Year and **Rebecca Soto**, a 9<sup>th</sup> grade student from Cholla High Magnet School, awarded as a High School Student of the Year.

Both of these students exemplify the characteristics of a positive role model in their schools and communities.

Congratulations!

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**EXPLORE** is the first part of a testing system that goes on to include the ACT.

Our next three students have excelled in that testing. Out of 40,623 students who took the 2013-14 EXPLORE assessment; they are each one of only fifty-three students who had a perfect score.

The EXPLORE test is intended to give information about a student's knowledge, skill, interests, and plans. Students can use this information to plan high school coursework and begin thinking about college and work. The score report tells students how their scores compare to those of other students across the nation.

It can determine the amount of help a student needs in seven areas:

- Exploring options for education, careers, and jobs after high school
- Improving writing skills
- Improving reading speed or comprehension
- Improving study skills
- Improving mathematical skills
- Improving computer skills
- Improving public speaking skills

Please help us honor these 8<sup>th</sup> grade students:

**Katherine DeVore**, Magee Middle School

**Lillian Clark**, Vail Middle School

**Brendan Oliver**, Secrist Middle School

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For our final category this evening we would like to recognize the Tucson K-12 Poetry Contest winners. This contest was sponsored by Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Tucson Poet Laureate Rebecca Seiferle.

According to Ms. Seiferle, she developed Tucson's first K-12 Poetry Contest because writing poetry encourages literacy, curiosity, the exploration of the world, and connects our own experience to the experiences of others. Each of the nearly 200 students who entered last fall's competition worked on word choice, vocabulary, visualized and expressed curiosity.

The student's poems are so thoughtful. Please help me thank the **Tucson Unified Teachers** who helped advise the students: **Ms. Mary Bergey, Ms. Joan Fox, Mr. Chris Goldsmith, Ms. Kevan Kiser-Chuc, Ms. Latrina Lewis, Ms. Amy Rusk** and **Ms. Jennifer Spohn**.

Third place winners received a trophy, second place winners received a trophy and a poetry journal and first place winners received a trophy, poetry journal and popular book of poetry by the student's favorite author. All participants' and winners' poetry will be featured in K12's national online student poetry collection.

The student winners are as follows:

### K-3 Category

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place            **Analysa Wood**, Grijalva Elementary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place            **Dylan Waddell**, Sam Hughes Elementary
- 1<sup>st</sup> place            **Isabelle Aboyte**, Mary Belle McCorkle K-8

### 4-6 Category

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place            **Tatiana Gallegos**, Grijalva Elementary
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place            **George Parra**, Sam Hughes Elementary
- 1<sup>st</sup> place            **Dizan Mata**, Sam Hughes Elementary

### 9-12 Category

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place            **Clarissa Holquin**, Tucson High Magnet School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place            **Anthony Olivares**, Tucson High Magnet School

That concludes my report this evening.