

Number of seats to reserve: 25 + 50 from Magee

Certificates:

Alexandra Karaim

Amy Rod

Chris Rod

Kenzie Rod

Braxton Rod

Dean Misenhimer

Carol Allread

Raymond Allread

Amanda Allread

Joey Escobar

Lourdes Escobar

Maya Escobar

Rex Widman

Michael Konrad

Caryl Crowell

Magee Odyssey of the Mind

Edra Mariana Ball

Chace Brown

Alexis Byrnes

Damian Cotter

Angelina Cruz

Sparrow Davis

Kasey Downing

Reece Enfield

Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick

Victoria Isabel Garcia-Ojeda

Mia Goldberg

Sydney Harrington

Kyle Jackson

Elizabeth Kiburz

Dylan Mate ('Muh-Tay')

Brooklyn Mercurio

Alyssa North

Victoria Norton

Zoe Paye

Cesar Quero

Jasmine Ronquillo

Carly Swansen

Marixa Zazueta Switzer

Yvonne Valenzuela

Dylon Weiss

Adrianna Zamora

I'd like to start with a group of families who dedicated hundreds of hours and a lot of sweat equity to renovate the softball field at the **Rincon/University High School** campus.

They took on this huge project on their own. They secured a grant from the Conquistadores to help, and bartered, traded and worked their hearts out to get it accomplished. When faced with the daunting task of putting in an infield, they call on Rex Widman, who owns an excavation company, to help.

When Rex saw the dedication of these families, he was inspired to donate his time and equipment to help and asked only that the field be dedicated to a dear friend who had recently passed away.

Together, these folks created a beautiful field. I had the pleasure of seeing the field in person on Saturday, where I threw out the first pitch at the Alumni Family Fun Day. It was great to see these families come together and support each other and their players.

The Rangers are having a winning season so far, and I congratulate them on that and thank the families, Mr. Rex Widman and Head Coach Dean Minsenhimer for their dedication and hard work.

Will the following people please come up:

Carol Allread
Raymond Allread
Amanda Allread
Amy Rod
Chris Rod
Kenzie Rod
Braxton Rod
Lourdes Escobar
Joey Escobar
Maya Escobar
Rex Widman
Dean Misenheimer

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Next we have **Caryl Crowell**, a longtime teacher with the district who now works as the magnet coordinator at Borton.

Ms. Crowell is the 2015 winner of the University of Arizona's *In Defense of Good Teaching* award. The award is presented each year to a teacher who has taken extraordinary steps to advocate for students.

The committee that chooses the winner said: "Caryl's approach fits this description. She carefully considers new educational policy mandates and communicates in a forceful and articulate way the potential positive and negative effects these mandates are likely to have on the students and teachers with whom she works. In a time of major challenges to public education, she is a clear and consistent voice for reason."

Congratulations, Ms. Crowell. What an honor!

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Next, I'd like to congratulate **Michael Konrad**. He is a finalist for the Paladin Award, which is given by an organization called Sold No More, which works to educate the community about sex trafficking in Southern Arizona.

Mr. Konrad, who used to be principal at Booth-Fickett and now is an assistant superintendent, was the first principal to use the organization's AWARE prevention curriculum.

Congratulations, Mr. Konrad, on this award.

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We would like to recognize an outstanding student writer with us today. **Alexandra Karaim** from University High School recently won several awards in the State of Arizona 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Competition, including a National Gold Medal in the short story division. She will participate in the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City this June.

Alexandra, who is a sophomore, submitted four pieces to the contest: Two short stories, one flash fiction piece and a poem. Each submission won a prize. In addition to the Gold Medal, Alexandra took home a Gold Key, a Silver Key and two honorable mentions.

Her Gold and Silver pieces will be published in a book of young Arizona authors. She also recently learned that she has been accepted into the Kenyon Young Writers Workshop this summer. The workshop is held at Kenyon College in Ohio.

Excellent writing is a great skill to have and we're excited about your success, Alexandra!

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Magee Middle School has an outstanding history of excellence in the Odyssey of the Mind competition. In fact, the schools teams are the 11-time defending Arizona Champions!

If you're not familiar with Odyssey of the Mind, it's a contest where teams are given a problem to solve, and they have to create a solution using all sorts of skills—science, technology, engineering, arts and math—or STEAM--as well as problem-solving skills and divergent thinking.

Teams compete in categories and divisions. The top two teams in each advance to the World Finals.

This year, four teams from Magee will travel to Michigan State University for the Odyssey of the Minds World Finals. Tonight, we are honoring all of the Magee Odyssey of the Minds teams, their coach, and the school for its amazing track record with this competition.

I'd like to ask Principal Dan Erickson, coach Marjorie Letson and a whole bunch of great kids to come up:

Edra Mariana Ball

Chace Brown

Alexis Byrnes

Damian Cotter

Angelina Cruz

Sparrow Davis

Kasey Downing

Reece Enfield

Mary Ellen Fitzpatrick

Victoria Isabel Garcia-Ojeda

Mia Goldberg

Sydney Harrington

Kyle Jackson

Elizabeth Kiburz

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Victoria Norton

Zoe Paye

Cesar Quero

Jasmine Ronquillo

Carly Swansen

Marixa Zazueta Switzer

Yvonne Valenzuela

Dylon Weiss

Adrianna Zamora

End recognitions

Legislative Report:

Next I'd like to take this time to deliver a short wrap up of the legislative session and show you how my team advocated for the district in Phoenix.

As you know, Tucson Unified School District saw several bills along with the state budget that could have potentially added up to 91 million dollars in cuts from the state.

Back in February, Senate Bill 1371 was introduced which was a plan to phase out desegregation funding. A reporter with the Arizona Daily Star uncovered the fact that the bills author, Senator Debbie Lesko, didn't realize TUSD is still under an active desegregation order. I felt it was important to testify and help clear up any misconceptions about what TUSD does with the desegregation funds. I testified on February 11th, and brought along this infographic to show the committee the level of oversight we are under with these funds.

The bill passed out of committee but Senator Lesko and several other Senators expressed their intent to look into TUSD's unique situation. The bill never made it to the floor of the Senate.

In March, it was announced that Career and Technical Education and JTED funding would see sharp cuts. My team brought together superintendents and business leaders in the community for a joint press conference here in the Governing Board meeting room to sound the alarm regarding deep budget cuts. Our team prepared a handout to help the media tell the story. We also livestreamed the event to ensure people in the community, and legislators in Phoenix, could watch it live.

A few days later, we helped students at Tucson High Magnet School put together an informational session so they could learn more about the CTE/JTED budget cuts and how they would affect them. Again, we livestreamed this event for other students and schools and used social media to reach students. We used Twitter to take questions from the audience live using a hashtag.

The result: changes were made to the original budget proposal with major cuts being shifted to 2016-17. That means there's still time for the legislature to come back and change this and we're hopeful they will.

Next, on March 23rd we learned of two "striker" amendments, SB1120 which would have required a forensic audit of desegregation funds and SB1076 an adjustment to the formula for the property tax cap.

Again, I went to Phoenix to testify, this time in front of the House Appropriations committee. This was the very last day for bills to be heard---a crucial day to advocate for our district.

SB1120 targeted just two districts: TUSD and Phoenix Union High School District. Again our team put together an infographic on both bills---this time adding in the budget cuts along with the CTE/JTED cuts. The number is striking----91 million dollars in funding.

In all, we were in Phoenix more than 20 hours as we waited to testify. The outcome: SB 1120 was held. SB1076 passed but never made it to the floor.

On April 1st, I returned to the capitol to meet with some of the legislators who had been on the committees I testified in front of--- and others who were willing to listen. I brought another handout with me to help share the story of the good things happening in our district. I left that handout with each of them---in hopes of helping them see our team vision to take TUSD into the future with a plan and a purpose.

So many ask---why advocate? Why try? This chart shows you what we've already lost since 2008---a 90% reduction in our Capital Funding.

It shows you what's left to fight for---for our kids and the future of this district—to make it the best it can be for the next generation of children and families.

end legislative report

Tonight I want to deliver a huge THANK YOU to the entire Tucson community for joining us in wearing red, white and blue this past Friday in support of the students and staff at Borman Elementary School on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

The base is in the middle of one of the largest deployments ever---meaning many of the students are seeing mom or dad only via Skype right now. As a district we wanted to do something to let them know we're thinking of them and the movement really took off.

We received hundreds of pictures via email and social media from our schools, community members, the Mayor of Tucson, Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona, local businesses and people as far away as Idaho and New Jersey!

Here's a short video we wanted to share:

{play video}

Again thank you! And to see this video and the slideshow of pictures just head to TUSD1.org

End Borman

I also wanted to share some big news today:

The Steps to Success program has received the *Judge's Pick* spotlight for the month of February from the Expect More Excellence tour.

The Expect More Excellence Tour is a program by Expect More Arizona that highlights what Arizonans are doing today to make progress toward world-class education and celebrates the kind of excellence we expect and believe must be available to all students.

TUSD has conducted two walks—one in July and one in January, and we've brought hundreds of children back to school. We thank those students for giving us another chance to help them succeed.

City of Tucson Incentives:

On the agenda tonight, we have a discussion of possible incentives from the City to help the school district sell or repurpose closed schools as quickly as possible.

Staff from Tucson Unified and the City of Tucson have been meeting to talk about a program to encourage the redevelopment of closed school sites.

The district has closed 20 schools in the last ten years. Twelve of those schools have been repurposed or are in the process of being repurposed. Some have been leased, some are serving as Infant & Early Learning Centers or for community services, and two are in escrow for residential development.

Some of the incentives that have been discussed are batch re-zonings (properties grouped together, an expedited process for TUSD to rezone the properties and incentives for buyers of the properties).

Selling or repurposing the closed schools benefits neighborhoods, the district and the City of Tucson, and I'm pleased that Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has reached out to try to help make good use of the buildings and/or the property they are on.

Ernie Duarte, Director of Planning and Development, is here to present the City's perspective on the project.