

## Superintendent's Report 04.15.14

The Governing Board and I would like to start this meeting by acknowledging representatives who are here from **Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp** and **two of our own middle school STEM teachers** who have each received \$2500 from Dun & Bradstreet.

Please help us welcome from Dun & Bradstreet:

**John Hald**  
**Robin Serna**  
**Maria Sirvas**  
**Brenda Gary**

And our two recipient STEM teachers:

From Mansfeld, **Kirstin Bittel**  
And from Booth-Fickett, **Mr. Garrett Pierce**

I would like Dun & Bradstreet's representatives to speak a little about the "EdAhead" initiative which was created to support Dun & Bradstreet's commitment to putting the dream of college back on track through the power of personal action and through which their employees made contributions to their 529 Education accounts that activated a match of company dollars as well as a donation to local public schools.

The program concept is that the donation should go to the next generation of 'thinkers, doers and innovators.'

They would like to present a check to the district in support of TUSD STEM programs.

We would never be able to provide as many extraordinary education opportunities to our students without the support we get through partnerships and donations like these from businesses within our own community.

Thank you, on behalf of the students of Tucson Unified.

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Next we would like to recognize a very talented young man. **Zackary Bryerton is a student at Catalina Magnet High** and a student in the Culinary Arts program. He could not be here tonight because he has to work but we still want to recognize his accomplishment.

According to Stacie Rios, FEAST/Beginning Culinary Arts teacher at Catalina, Zack did an amazing job this year at the Career Through Culinary Arts Program competition. He participated in the first round of this competition back in February, where he placed 4<sup>th</sup> out of 130 teen chefs from around Arizona – and was the only TUSD student to place. This earned him a spot in the finals.

For months, during school, after school, attending practices at Mountain View High School under the guidance of a chef from Canyon Ranch, Zack practiced – maintaining good grades and working a full-time job at Hacienda del Sol.

The finals were held at the Le Cordon Bleu of Scottsdale where he went head-to-head with 30 of Arizona's brightest teen chefs. His technical skills were put on display for 20 professional chefs and he had a 30-minute interview with a panel of 5 judges.

On March 31, Zack was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to attend the Art Institute of San Francisco!! All the dedication to improving his skills has begun to pay off for him. Please help us congratulate Zackary Bryerton.

We will send his certificate to him.

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Finally, this evening, we would like to put a spotlight on our winning **Odyssey of the Mind teams from Vail and Magee Middle Schools**. Both competed at Regional finals and both had winning teams that went on to compete at State.

**The Odyssey of the Mind** is an international educational program that teaches students to learn creative problem-solving methods while having fun in the process. According to Marjorie Letson, Odyssey of the Mind is the largest creative problem-solving competition in the world. The five problems were:

**Problem 1: *Driver's Test*** - involved building a horizontal scissor-lift car with a rowing mechanism. Magee placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Regional finals and 3<sup>rd</sup> in State in this category.

**Problem 2: *The Not-So-Haunted-House*** – is a mathematical labyrinth that reveals a solution of Pi after a series of technical effects and math problems. Magee was 1<sup>st</sup> in Regional finals, and 1<sup>st</sup> in State (250 out points out of 250 in Long-Term and Style points).

**Problem 3: *It's How We Rule*** – Involved a Swedish historic court and their “Fun-gal Kingdom.” The Magee team-created instrument, played with a flip-flop shoe, also received 250 out of 250 points. Magee took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Regional finals, 1<sup>st</sup> place in State.

**Problem 4: *The Stackable Structure*** – Teams had to design and build a structure made up of separate components stacked on top of one another. The structure components were to be made of only balsa wood and glue, and were tested by balancing and supporting weights after they were stacked. Vail placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Regional Finals in this category.

**Problem 5: *Seeing is Believing*** – Magee once again scored 250 out of 250 points with a creative political and musical solution to determine the next ‘Grand Fortissimo.’ Magee took 1<sup>st</sup> place in regional and 1<sup>st</sup> in State.

Please help us congratulate, from Vail:

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**Coordinator and Coach:**

Liz Benites

**Coaches:**

Lynn Curtis

Elise Kohagura

Beth Sherman

Denise Grijalva

**Students:**

Emily Curtis

Lily Clark

Julia Jarrett

Geva Ozeri

Ryan Spry

Simon Wilson

Kaitlyn Wright

Jordan Grier

Shay Gutierrez

Halley Hughes

Aaron Hum

Hannah Peskin-Owens

Logan Ruth

Erika Stenson

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Emily Carr

Amanda Conrad

Henry Harms

Riley Norris

Lauren Standish

Dana Stenson

Dre Baltierrez

Ben Benites

Mason Carr

Ashlynn Sherman

Kylan Smith

Natalie Reyna

Kami Warren

The three 1<sup>st</sup> place teams from Magee will now compete at the World Finals in May at Iowa State University. Most of the teams competing from Arizona are from outside Tucson.

Now let us congratulate the Magee champions:

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**Coach:**

**Marjorie Letson**

**Assistant Coach:**

**Joan Flannery**

**Students:**

Chloe Baughn

Maxwell Breakey

Aaron Chipman

Victoria Decker

Jaqueline Diaz

Kasey Downing

Reece Enfield

Joshua Gigstad

Andree Johnson

Austin Killian

Heather Lewis

Laura Letson

Victoria Norton

Victoria Garcia Ojeda

Ayden Orlando

Chase Pope

Matthew Rohrbacker

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Sophia Schneider

Christian Trejo

Avalon Swanson-Reid

Marixa Zazueta Switzer

Abby Woods