

I'm excited to announce that three of our outstanding educators were named Rodel Aspiring Principals by the prestigious Rodel Foundation.

They are Joel Bacalia, assistant principal at Pueblo Magnet High School, Thad Dugan, assistant principal of Pistor Middle School and Nora Jaramillo, a teacher-mentor and curriculum facilitator at Erickson Elementary School. Could you please come up?

Each year, the foundation selects a cohort of leaders for the program, which offers training, shadowing and the opportunity to build a network of Rodel Exemplary mentors as they prepare to become principals.

Here is what the Rodel Foundation's president and CEO said about the program and the Aspiring Principals chosen for the program this year:

"Success in any field is greatly improved when you have outstanding mentors. We know that these Aspiring Principals have the talent to excel, and with the support of their Exemplary Principal mentors, they will be able to succeed as school leaders in Arizona communities that are in need of great leadership."

We are proud to have three more of our Tucson Unified leaders accepted into this program. Congratulations!

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Next, I'd like to recognize the great work of a group of students who may very well be the leading scientists of the future.

These students from Mansfeld Magnet Middle School were the only ones in our district to compete in the Science Olympiad, and they did a great job—placing in three events at the State tournament.

I'd also like to congratulate the team's coaches, Kirsten Bittel and Andrea Smith. Thank you for encouraging children to take an interest in science and go out there and compete!

Let's have the teams and coaches come on up:

Erubiel Orozco

Maya Rabago

Eliana Fife

Ocean Roether

Veronique Lopez

Maya Rabago

Zyonna Johnson

Erika Piel

Ethan Westfall

Sarah Cadena

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I'd like to recognize a group of children whose work was chosen in contests involving poetry and art.

The Tucson Poetry Contest, sponsored by Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Tucson Poet Laureate Rebecca Seiferle, was created to encourage literacy and curiosity and to connect our own experiences to the experience of others.

In the K-3 category:

- Brighton Roselle from Miles Exploratory Learning Center won first place with her poem, "I Am Mixed Up."
- Sophia Gurley from Sam Hughes Elementary, won second place for her poem, "Desert Rain."

In the 4th grade through 6th grade category:

- Dylan Waddell from Sam Hughes won second place
- Ezmeralda Acuna from Miles won third place

In the 9 through 12 grade category:

- Nichole Stanton of Tucson High Magnet School won first place
- Marissa Alejandre of Tucson High won second place
- Anthony Olivares of Tucson High won third place

Congratulations to all who participated in the Tucson K-12 Poetry Contest!

Next is the Living River of Words Youth Poetry and Art Contest. This program encourages children to explore how water moves the landscape and the connections that plants, animals and people have to water. After exploring those topics, children share their impressions with entries of poetry and/or visual art. We had some winners and some finalists. Congratulations to you all!

- Grand prize, poetry, Category 1
Shaylyn Pope, Bloom Elementary (teacher Ms. Martin)
- Grand prize, poetry, Category 3
Jose Licea, Ochoa Community Magnet School (Mrs. Elvick-Mejia)

And all of you finalists, please come up, too!

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I'm very proud to announce that Drachman Montessori Magnet School has been named a School of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America.

This award recognizes magnet schools and programs that demonstrate a high commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community involvement.

More than 300 schools submitted for the award, and we are proud that the hard work and achievement at Drachman was recognized.

I'd like to ask Principal Jesus Celaya, and any staff or families that are here, to come up. Thank you and your staff for your dedication to the students of Drachman Montessori Magnet School, and congratulations on this honor!

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Two of our schools have earned a remarkable achievement that I am very happy to tell you about. Carrillo K-5 Communication and Creative Arts Magnet and Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School were named A+ Schools of Excellence by the Arizona Educational Foundation.

We are so proud that the great work happening at these schools has been recognized by the AEF. The schools are evaluated in the areas of student focus and support, school culture, active teaching and learning, curriculum, leadership, community involvement and data from assessments.

The schools are planning celebrations at their sites this week and next to bring everyone who contributes to a great school together: students, teachers, staff, leadership ... it is truly a community effort.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these fantastic recognitions happen!

I would like to invite the school principals: Lori Conner of Carrillo and Daniel Schulter from Dodge, along with any staff or families that are here, to come up.

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Every year, Carondelet selects just 20 students in the city to participate in their Brain Academy. It's a two day opportunity to take part in an interactive learning about neuroscience. I'm proud to say that this year, nearly half were from Tucson Unified schools!

Many of the students are here tonight, please come up to be recognized.

Larissa Haro—Cholla Magnet High School

Hunter Brown—Sabino High School

Lila Evans----Sabino High School

And from University High school: John Gallardo, Katherine Hahn, Sonia Jolly, Maggie Zheng, Natalie Ezeugwu and Nathaniel Whitthorne.

According to the organizers, this year was extremely competitive with more high-quality applications than ever before. All qualifying students must hold a 3.0 GPA and show an interest in the medical field.

The academy was held in April. The students learned about anatomy of the brain, how brain waves control the body and more. They also spent time in the Brain Suite!

Congratulations to these students!

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Two of our high school students have earned the prestigious 2015 Flinn Scholarship. Tonight, we have Ruby Kerwin of University High School with us, and we hope to have Craig Johnson from Tucson High with us at our next meeting.

Only 21 students were chosen this year. The scholarship includes the cost of tuition to one of the three state universities, room and board, funding for international study-related travel and more.

Here is what the Flinn Foundation president and CEO said about this year's group:

"Our 30th class of Scholars is a talented and dedicated group of students from a diverse mix of high schools who have excelled academically and in service to their school and community."

Come on up, Ruby. And congratulations on this outstanding scholarship!

END OF RECOGNITIONS