

Superintendent Recognition  
May 10, 2016

First, we'd like to recognize two of Tucson Unified's outstanding football players. Could **Andrew Filiberti** of Sahuaro High School please come up? We are also recognizing **DeAndre Williams** of Tucson High Magnet School. He couldn't be here tonight because he is working to save as much as he can for Western New Mexico University, where he is going in the fall to play football. His mom is here tonight to represent him. Could I also ask Ms. Delisia Ross and both players' coaches, principals and supporters to come up as well?

DeAndre and Andrew are the 2016 Scholar-Athlete Award Recipients from the Southern Arizona Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

The mission of the Southern Arizona Chapter of the football foundation is to promote and develop leadership, character and academic excellence through amateur football.

DeAndre and Andrew were honored last month at the 19th Annual Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet, where they received \$1,000 scholarships. It takes a great deal of dedication and hard work to be a scholar, and it takes just as much to be an athlete. I want to commend Andrew and DeAndre for excelling academically and athletically and for being models of leadership for their schools.

Congratulations.

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Next, I'd like to recognize a group of athletes that just last night won the State Championship in their division for the first time in 26 years.

Can I get the **Pueblo Magnet High School Softball team** with coaches and administrators to come on up?

This was Coach Ruiz's first year at Pueblo, and he and his athletes proved there's a new Pueblo in town. The team won 26 games this season—almost as many as the past seven seasons combined. They outscored their opponents 37-5. Amazing.

On the way to the championship game, they dominated Benson, the division's top seed, beating them by 10 runs in a mercy-rule win. Then last night, they shut out Camp Verde with a score of 5-0 to win the state title.

We have a **video** to share, courtesy of Pueblo Magnet High School.

Congratulations, Warriors. You make us proud!

Mya Cabral

Vanessa Duarte

Alizea Durazo-Corday

Sierra Gaskill

Kamryn Gastelum

Brianna Gomez

Vanessa Molina

Danielle Ochoa

Rebecca Padilla

Jawney Rios-Sanders

Nickole Robles

Maritza Rubio

Ariana Ruiz

Abigail Torres

Sharae Valenzuela Leyva

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**Mansfeld's Science Olympiad team** is only in its third year, and it has already made a name for itself in the state. Come on up team and teachers!

This year the students competed in two invitationals before attending the Southern Regional, where they qualified for the State Tournament. At Regionals, they brought home ribbons for 10 of the 23 events.

At State, the team brought home ribbons in seven of the 23 events including one first-place ranking. The team is coached by Kirstin Bittel (who is at the school facilitating the Mansfeld STEM Night right now), Andrea Smith and Mark Eberlein.

Mansfeld students Eliana Fife and Lia Erbe took first place in Crave the Wave (Physics Event)

The Mansfeld State Science Olympiad Team is:

Sarah Cadena  
Savannah Derby  
Lia Erbe  
Elianna Fife  
Trent Kleparek  
Argeo Leyva  
Emma Marble  
Chezi McDaniel  
Lily McDaniel  
Maya Rabago

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I am pleased to announce that the **Magee Odyssey of the Mind** teams are once again State Champions! This year, Magee competed in all five problems and won the State title in three of the five areas. All five teams won at regional finals last month to earn the right to compete at the State level.

Marjorie Letson, a teacher at Magee, is the Odyssey of the Mind head coach, Matt Zamora and Jim Edwards, who are parents and Raytheon engineers, are also coaches. A few things of note about Ms. Letson: She is this year's Campus Teacher of the Year, and on Wednesday, she was named the District Middle School Teacher of the Year at our Celebration of the Stars event, where we learned that Ms. Letson has been working at Tucson Unified for more than 40 years!

Back to the Odyssey of the Mind—Magee has 28 students on the team who all advanced from Regional competition to State Finals, and most of them are going on to World Finals next at Iowa State University May 24-29. This is an incredible accomplishment! Come on up, students and coaches!

Edra Ball	Andree Johnson
Madison Baughn	Elizabeth Kiburz
Alexis Byrnes	Dylan Mate
Angelina Cruz	Alyssa North
Sparrow Davis	Lily Pate
Reece Enfield	Zoe Paye
MaryEllen Fitzpatrick	Nikolas Stancu
Victoria Garcia Ojeda	Carly Swansen
Mia Goldberg	Jaidah Whitehead
Sebastian Gray	Kyle Yarger
Sydney Harrington	Alyssa Zachareas
Danielle Hartshorn	Adrianna Zamora
Hailey Hartshorn	Karly Zamora
Kyle Jackson	Marixa Zazueta Switzer

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Last month, the **Rincon/University Winter Guard Purple Team** placed first in the State Championship, and the **Winter Guard Black Team** took second. Quite a showing for both teams.

Purple earned the spot of 1st place with a score of 90.52, on a scale of 100. Additionally, the Winter Guard White Team placed second in Regionals for their division.

Here's a quick look at the competition in Phoenix. [\(VIDEO\)](#)

Congratulations to the teams and to coach Nicole Hamilton. Can you all please come up to be recognized?

Winter Guard Purple	Winter Guard Black	Winter Guard White
Fernando Barcelo	Ciara Brown	Lindsey Ball
Josh Hill	Marlene Cabrera	Breeann Blumenthal
Janae Johns	Katiana Coste	Dominic Carillo
Rachel Juarez	Katrina Emmert	Zoe Defalco
Bella Kearney	Allie Huber	Samantha Jankowski
Sarah Leon	Kirstin Ketchmark	Elly Karlowicz
Christofer Logie Salvatore	Amanda Lipp	Holly Labus
Madison Manly-Niebel	Megan Lynn	Carsen Mastrangelo
Kayley Manuel	Virginia Lyon	Rhiannon Mitchell
Rhiannon Nabours	Hannah MacAllister	Hannah Pearlman
Delaney Nowlan	Olivia Marhefka	Rikki Riojas
Jacqueline Reaney	Erin Nekolek	Luke Riviera
Kylie Reeve	Carolina Oliva-Martinez	Carolann Rodriguez
Anna Richard	Ruben Palacios	Erika Spivack
Helena Rodriguez	Eva Parra	Malana Starr
Luna Ruiz	Caleb Peterson	Jorge Vega
Kayla Tapia	Sarah Pritchett	Sarah Wang
David Underwood	Elaina Richards	
	Adrian Rios	
	Izzy Scovil	

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Tonight we'd like to honor and recognize the math team at **Borton Magnet Elementary School!** Nina Miller, Math Interventionist, put together the team this year. After just two competitions as a team, every Borton team member qualified for the State competition!

State was held this past weekend and the team did great. Here's how they did to get there.

Neill Marble, 1<sup>st</sup> place medal in first qualifier and 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in second qualifier

Perrin Reynwar, 2<sup>nd</sup> place medal in first qualifier

Jonah Surratt, top team scorer medal in first qualifier

Katie Rose Wilbur, 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy in second qualifier

Nathaniel Curtis, top 20 medal in second qualifier

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This past weekend I had the opportunity to enjoy “Soul’d Out,” the district’s Opening Minds Through the Arts Showcase at Sahuaro High School. It was amazing to see so many of our students in one place showing off their talent!

It’s fitting that I let you know that Tucson Unified School District recently received the nationally-recognized National Association for Music Educators and the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation designation: **Best Communities for Music Education** for the third year in a row.

We are the **only school district** in Arizona to receive this prestigious recognition.

I want to congratulate our Music educators, OMA Arts Integration Specialists, and OMA Teaching Artists for their exemplary teaching. We’d like you to come up and be recognized, along with **Dr. Joan Ashcraft**, Director, TUSD Fine and Performing Arts - Opening Minds through the Arts (OMA).

And one more note: On Friday, we learned that our Tucson Unified Music Department was selected as the Arizona educational partner with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City as a result of the OMA Opera program!!!

Congratulations! I understand you have a song for us?

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Next, we have the honor of recognizing some of our outstanding students whose hard work has provided them opportunities to attend prestigious colleges across the country.

First up: Cholla High Magnet School. Four of Cholla's senior scholars are IB Diploma students, completing seven college level courses in their junior and senior year. In addition, they have completed a 4,000 word extended research essay independent of any class and 150 hours of Creativity, Action and Service hours.

**Bernardo Moyza** couldn't be here tonight but we want to honor him for his scholarship to Pomona College in California.

**Antonio Roman** received two offers. Seton Hall, \$80,000 over four years, and St. John's University, \$76,000 over four years.

**Corina Oroz** was accepted to the following universities and received scholarship offers from all:

- Dartmouth
- Bowdoin
- Claremont McKenna
- College of the Holy Cross
- Duke
- Franklin & Marshall
- Middlebury
- Mount Holyoke
- Pomona
- Smith

**JonaCarl Vilchez** also was unable to attend tonight, but we want to honor him for being awarded an Alisa's Angels scholarship of \$2,500 and a Pearls of Wisdom scholarship of \$2,000.

Congratulations!

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We have quite a list from University High School, which was recently honored as the 24<sup>th</sup> best high school in the nation in the 2016 U.S. News & World Report analysis of the country's high schools. I'd like to present a certificate to the school for this great work!

The school also recently celebrated 40 years with many of its founders. The party was attended by more than 750 people!

Here are just some students worthy of recognition:

**Margaret Zheng** received the Flinn Scholarship and will be attending Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University.

**Fernando Barcelo** received the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship and will be attending Pomona College.

**Natalie Ezeugwu** received the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship and will be attending Stanford University. She also received the Betty Brown Scholarship. Over the weekend we found out Natalie was named a US Presidential Scholar and will get to meet the President this summer!

**Kelsey Berryman** received the QuestBridge College Match Scholarship and will be attending University of Chicago.

**Alana Enriquez** received the Gates Millennium Scholarship.

**National Merit Scholars:** Rachel Dveirin (De-vern like Lavrn)

Sloan Kanaski  
Alex Lehman  
Richard Shapley  
Julia Weidman

**National Merit Xerox Foundation Scholarship:** Christine Toering

**National Merit Finalists:**

Jared Bathen	Mary Labus	Alexa Panrudkevich
Ann Brunton	Alex Lehman	Lauren Phillips
Alan Cheng	Natalie Leonard	Samuel Slonaker
Natalie Ezeugwu	Josephine Maxwell	Jayasangeetha Thanikachalam
Steven Fried	Quinn McBrayer	Christine Toering
Oshadha Gunasekara	Nicholas Mosier	Joyce Wang
Katherine Hahn	Brandon Olander	Nathaniel Whitthorne

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**Rincon Senior Jeffrey White** has been accepted into the U of A's Fred Fox School of Music majoring in Clarinet Music Performance. He received the Pearls of Wisdom Scholarship for \$1,500. The foundation only awarded 3 scholarships this year.

His plan is to go to college and continue to play music. Jeff was part of the RUHS band that played back in December for the Governing Board in the court yard. He says he's very happy his bandmates will be receiving new uniforms next year! Congratulations Jeff!

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**Pueblo Magnet High School** Valedictorian Daniel Motley has been accepted into three Ivy League schools and each is awarding him a very nice financial aid/scholarship package.

Daniel has earned a 4.1 GPA and 13 consecutive years of perfect attendance. He attended Vesey Elementary, Valencia Middle School, and Pueblo Magnet High School. After being accepted to Brown University, Columbia University, and Dartmouth College, Daniel committed to Brown University after a recent Ivy League visit with the Arizona Ivy League Club.

Daniel attributes much of his involvement to those who have helped him engage with the community. He participated in clubs and groups such as Mariachi Aztlán, National Honor Society, Tribal Images, Anatomy Club, Healthcare Club, Arizona Ivy League Club, Tri-M Music Honor Society and the Tucson International Mariachi Conference Student Advisory Council.

Daniel would like to give thanks to his family for their enduring support, his mother for everything she has sacrificed for him, and Mrs. Kelly Crane for helping him grow throughout all four years of high school.

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From **Sabino High School**, Michelle Howard and Cameron Carver are Sabino's two Flinn Scholarship winners.

We have all watched Ms. Howard on the dais as she has served as the President of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council. Ms. Howard is also a Coca-Cola Scholarship Recipient, just one of five in Arizona! This is a \$20,000 scholarship. We have a short **video** to share.

Sabino also has three students who are finalists in the AIA Champions Award. Drew Jenkins and Livia Conlon are finalists for the AIA Scholar-Participant awards. Only four male and four female students throughout Arizona are selected as finalists.

Taylor Nations is a finalist for the AIA Scholar-Athlete award, again, only four male and four female students from Arizona make it to being a finalist. The awards will be presented on May 16, 2016.

Congratulations Sabercats!

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Next I would like to talk about our **Reading Recovery Team**. Tucson Unified is offering Reading Recovery to first graders at 12 of our elementary schools. Currently, we are the only district in Arizona providing this service for our students.

We are grateful to the wonderful people who are putting their time and effort into the program. Reading Recovery certification requires a full year of successful completion of graduate level coursework in the areas of literacy theory, research and practice, and training also includes working with students daily.

Tonight, I am proud to recognize our 2016 TUSD Reading Recovery Teachers and some of the students who have participated in the program. Please come on up.

Our teachers are:

Leslee Valencia, Borton Elementary

Marnie Robles, Cavett Elementary

Amy McAllister, Erickson Elementary

Lourdes Vidrio, Hollinger K-8

Thelma Ruiz, Johnson Primary

Maria Elena Peña, Mission View Elementary

Amy DeWitt, Myers-Ganoung Elementary

Tiffany Hodge, Robison Magnet

Cruz Herrera, Safford K-8 Magnet

Kathy Hendrickson, Tully Magnet

Diane Alvarez, Van Buskirk Elementary

Mario Figueroa, Vesey Elementary

This team of teachers is led by Diana Brena, Reading Recovery Coordinator, who tells us one of these young students is prepared to read to all of us tonight.

***(students can also read to board members during the break)***

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We have heard concerns that Tucson Unified School District isn't supporting science education or that we aren't supporting the continuation of Foss Kits for K-8.

Foss Kits are an integral part of the K-8 Science curriculum. Foss Kits will continue to be utilized in grades K-8. The science curriculum guides and maps align the kits with the science standards.

We have also heard questions about personnel. Science has been supported by grants:

- Race to the Top Year 4 (expired on 12.21.15)
- Race to the Top no cost extension (expires on 06.30.15 – for PD only)
- Math and Science Partnership – Science (expired on 02.26.16)

Three positions were funded under these grants. The three personnel funded through the grants have been designated as District Initiative Transfers and will be returning to the classroom for SY 2016-17. Curriculum & Instruction has worked with Anna Maiden, Chief Human Resources Officer, on this process, and she has provided guidance and support.

The DIT process does not affect the FOSS Kits and the support for schools and classrooms in the area of science. As Curriculum and Instruction moves forward, we will be utilizing classroom science teachers to assist with curriculum development and enhancements. Classroom teachers will receive professional development in understanding the science standards and use their application knowledge in this process. This is the same process Curriculum and Instruction utilizes within the other content areas. The Tucson Unified School District's curriculum is developed, designed and tested with teachers, by teachers, for teachers. Science will continue to be supported K-12 and the Foss Kits will continue to be utilized in grades K-8.

### **Grants:**

We are currently applying for two grants;

- **i3 Innovation Grant** – This grant will support new or substantially more effective practices for addressing widely shared challenges. This will also support novel innovative projects that support our local needs.
- **MSP/Magnet Grant** – This will support STEM, new or revised magnet schools. This grant will support projects designed to improve student achievement or other related outcomes by supporting local or regional partnerships. It will also support projects that propose a strategy or practice supported by evidence of promise.

**END OF REPORT**