

Superintendent's Report 05.13.14

To begin my report tonight I would like to thank the two musical groups that were playing for us tonight. The **Mariachis from White Elementary** under the direction of **William Mark** and the **Rincon/UHS Jazz Band** under the direction of **Jeff Marchant**.

On April 5th the Rincon/University High School Jazz Band won the Highland Jazz festival in the High School Jazz Band Division and was the only high participating group asked to perform in the artist's concert at the culmination of the three day, statewide festival.

On May 2nd, the band received the highest possible award, a "Superior with Distinction" at the State Jazz Festival hosted at South Mountain High School in Phoenix.

Awesome performances, both – I wish we could have representative performances for all of our music groups to showcase the talented musicians we have attending our schools.

Thank you for sharing your talent and beautiful music with us, tonight!

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Before we begin to recognize our honorees tonight, I would like to call up **former Tucson City Councilman, Mr. Rodney Glassman**. He and his wife Sasha, both attorneys, have written three children's books. They are written in both English and Spanish, illustrated by Arizona school children, and feature an ecology-minded rabbit by the name of Jeremy Jack Rabbit.

They have distributed thousands of books free of charge to school districts across the state, including our own. This year and last, they distributed over 4,000 books to our kindergarten students and thousands more to other districts across the state.

Mr. Glassman, will you please come up front?

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We have several students being recognized for being winners in **Tucson's River of Words Youth Poetry and Art contest**. According to their website, River of Words encourages young people to explore how water moves through the landscape and the connections that plants, animals and people have to water. After exploring these topics children ages 5-19 have the opportunity to share their observations and understandings through their entries of poetry and/or visual art to the contest.

At the presentation, the teachers were told there were 600 poetry submissions and 600 art submissions. Only 50 pieces are chosen to be published. Out of those chosen, TUSD had 15 of the winners! We have a book of their art and poetry here for viewing. I would like to thank all the teacher/advisors:

Teacher, [Jane Martin](#), and her student winners from **Erickson, Howell and Van Buskirk**:

[Theresa Lockwood](#)

[Ursula Denholm](#)

[Joseph Felix](#)

[Ebly Cureses](#)

Teacher, [Kevan Kiser-Chuc](#), and her student winners from **Grijalva and Hughes**:

[Analysa Wood](#)

[Miguel Angel Barriga](#)

[Greer Stokes](#) from Hughes was unable to attend

Teachers, [Celeste Aho](#) and [Sandra Payton](#), and their student winners from **Sewell**:

[Philip Rosado](#)

[Ibrahim Adel](#)

[Lillyana Carmona](#)

Teachers, [Angela Bennett](#) and [Elvick Mejia](#), and their student winners from **Ochoa**:

[Jan Carlo Bonilla](#)

[Luis Fernandez Escalante](#)

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Teacher, [Eric Wagner](#), was unable to attend but his student winner from **Borton** is here:

[Athena Leeks](#)

Teacher, [Megan Winter](#), and her student winner from **Hudlow**, [Jesus Trujillo](#), were also unable to attend. We will send their certificates to them.

For another Poetry contest we have several winners from **Henry Elementary**. These students competed in the **Earth Day Poetry Contest**. Each student who entered wrote a poem about the Sonoran Desert – about this place as their home, or animals, plants, the landscape, observations, feelings and hopes – whatever is important to the student. This contest was sponsored by the Coati Kids Club of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. All five winners are here tonight, along with their **teacher/advisors** [Elena Ryan](#) and [Christina Miles](#). The winners are:

[Jeronimo Ojeda](#)

[Harrison Richter](#)

[Bethany Seal](#)

[Kali Thompson](#)

[Hannah Pairrett](#)

Speaking of the arts, we have some students joining us tonight who won art scholarships, which were awarded by the **Southern Arizona Watercolor Guild**.

From **Pueblo High School**, [Carmina Garcia](#) was granted an Award of Honor in the amount of \$750 and

We have two students from **University High School**, [Samantha Trappman](#), who was awarded \$1,000 and the Shirley Hamilton Memorial Art Scholarship and

[Jero Delos Santos](#) was also awarded \$1,000 through the Laura Hollander Memorial Scholarship.

TUSD has three of *only* seven awardees! Congratulations to all of you and thank you for being excellent TUSD representatives.

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Next the Board and I would like to recognize the accomplishments of several outstanding students. I would like to mention a couple who could not be here tonight before calling up those who were able to make it. **Meagan Bethel**, a **Tucson High Magnet School Student**, who was recognized last month for her win in the Southern Arizona Science Fair, could not be here tonight because she is currently representing TUSD in Los Angeles at the International Science and Engineering Fair. I wanted to mention that Meagan has also recently been named a **Carson Scholar**. Students are nominated by their school for this \$1,000 scholarship award, which recognizes they have embraced high levels of academic excellence and service. Congratulations, Meagan! Best Wishes in L.A.

We also have two **Flinn Scholars**. One of whom could not be here tonight. **Graham Place** of Sabino High School was unable to attend tonight but we want to congratulate him. **Carly Snyder** of University High School is here with us tonight.

More than 600 high school seniors applied for the scholarship. These are **two of only 20 students selected** across the state for the honor, which recognizes high-achieving seniors who have demonstrated leadership and community service. **The scholarship package is valued at more than \$100,000**, covering the cost of tuition to one of the state's three public universities, room and board, funding for international study-related travel and professional development, university faculty mentorship and other benefits. These are two amazing students, congratulations on such an awesome accomplishment!

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Recently, Rincon's Chapter of Junior State of America won the **Ernest Andrew Rogers Award for Outstanding Junior State Chapter of the Year for the State of Arizona**. They will now go on to compete on May 15 via Webinar for the JSA National Civic Award! The Chapter of the Year awardees receive an engraved plaque, a \$1,000 scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Summer School, a full scholarship to a Junior Statesmen Institute for one chapter member, one free private room for the Teacher Advisor to all of next year's conventions and they become eligible for the JSA National Civic Impact Award.

Congratulations to all of you! What an outstanding honor for you and for TUSD. Please help me recognize their **teacher/advisor**, [Stacia Reeves](#), who will call the following students:

[**John Lopez-Aldas**](#), Chapter President

[**Alex Granillo**](#), Vice-President

[**Johnny Taylor**](#), Secretary

[**Rey Estrada**](#), Treasurer

[**Christian Ho**](#)

[**Roy Armenta**](#)

[**Obie Dieke**](#)

[**Didi Dieke**](#)

[**Naomi Brown**](#)

[**Marlene Effiwat**](#)

[**Anamayan Narendran**](#)

[**Jacob Sepulveda**](#)

[**Manuel Dominguez**](#)

[**Bryan Barley**](#)

[**Leslie Gonzalez**](#)

[**Rebecca Menjivar**](#) was unable to attend but we would like to congratulate her, also.

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Finally we have two teachers to recognize.

Mr. Ivan Yocum, Doolen Middle School's science teacher for 17 years, was surprised to learn his classroom was receiving a grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Southern Arizona. The announcement was made during the recent SARSEF SciEnTek – 12 science fair in Tucson, where he received the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Top Science Teacher award. The company is recognizing both Doolen Middle School and Mr. Yocum for their outstanding ability to inspire middle school students in science, technology, engineering and math studies, also known as STEM.

Funds will be used to purchase updated books with integrated software support, modern microscopes and slides, chemistry lab tools and science magazine subscriptions. Additionally, BCBSAZ will host Mr. Yocum and his students for a field trip to the Arizona Science Center in Phoenix.

Congratulations to you Mr. Yocum!! Thank you for your dedication to your students, fostering the love of science and your commitment to teaching all of these years!

Ms. Kirstin Bittel is a standout who was recognized at the Board meeting last month for her work with students at the Science and Engineering Fair. She has been honored with the K-12 Educator award by WISE (women in science and engineering). They work to encourage women to enter STEM fields. Victoria Callison, Magnet Director, stated it was an inspiring night to be surrounded by so many women working in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields. Congratulations Ms. Bittel.

THAT CONCLUDES MY REPORT FOR TONIGHT.