

Superintendent Report
May 24, 2016

For the past several years, **Dun & Bradstreet's EdAhead program** has supported STEM education at Tucson Unified. We are grateful for their continued support, and we have a video of their most recent donation event, which featured programs they have helped make happen.

[Video](#)

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The Communications team was recently honored for its coverage of STEM events. The Cox **Connect2STEM Creative Media Award** came with a \$1,000 prize, which we are passing along to the outstanding Palo Verde Robotics team and their non profit Robotics Alliance of Southern Arizona. Cox created a video to show our Communications team in action.

Video

Can we have communications team members and representatives of the Palo Verde Robotics team come on up?

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Several of our magnet schools were recognized by Magnet Schools of America, and tonight, we are recognizing **Tucson High Magnet School**, which was named a School of Distinction. Can we have our staff come up?

Magnet School of Merit Awards recognize schools and programs that demonstrate a high commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs, and parent and community involvement.

Congratulations to Tucson High!

Next month, we'll recognize Davis, Ochoa and Mansfeld.

We are so proud of these schools.

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Sahuaro High School had its first **Speech and Debate Team** this year, and Coach **Megan Hughes** is very proud of how they did their first year out of the gate. She wrote to let me know that they had a great season, making it through many rounds of competition in the five tournaments they attended. The tournaments included three types of debate, student congress, and about 10 speech events.

Can the team and Coach Hughes come up please?

In November, the Public Forum debate team reached the octa-finals.

In January they attended two tournaments. At one, **Taylor Hughes** reached the semi-finals of extemp debate and took fifth place in expository speaking. At the other, **Mason Carr and Max Becker** took third place in Public forum debate, and Taylor Hughes took sixth place in expository speaking

In March, they attended two tournaments. At the first **Taylor Hughes** reached the finals of expository speaking and got sixth place, **Mason Carr** made the finals of Student Congress, and **Halley Hughes and Tea Bravo** got to the quarter-finals of public forum debate

At State, **Taylor Hughes** broke to finals in expository speaking and got 1st place! She is the Division II State champion!

Congratulations to this new team on the tremendous success. We can't wait to see what you do next year!

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Three students from **Pueblo Magnet High School** earned first place honors in the Medical Innovation competition at HOSA, a student organization for future health care professionals.

Can I ask **Ingrid Rojo, Alex Ross, and Adnan Taleb** to come up? Their innovative work is a continuation of their Science Fair project on the development of a creosote based soap for both home and hospital use.

They have worked since August on this project, and in June, they head to the international competition in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations to these outstanding students.

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Next we have another Pueblo student to honor. **Brandon Romero**, please come on up.

Brandon is here because of the outstanding character he shows at school and in life. One of his teachers, **Fatima Lopez**, nominated him for a character award from the Kino Rotary Club. She said Brandon is not only an outstanding student, but he also is a kind person.

In physics class, Brandon is quick to help other students with labs and reports. He also volunteers to help his classmates with the software programs they use for data collection analysis.

Ms. Lopez says Brandon does all this on his own and that he shows leadership beyond his years.

Thank you, Brandon, for all you do for your school and your fellow students.

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Recently, the Pueblo Warriors won first place at the Superintendent's Cup, the yearly interscholastics contest that honors our athletic programs. The cup is awarded based on State Tournament participation, GPA of the athletes and more. Congratulations to all of the Warrior athletes and coaches who contributed to the honor.

One of the teams we haven't had here yet is the Boys Basketball team, who finished their season awhile back with a record of 15-6 and were the Division III, Section III champions and finished in the Sweet 16 of AZ State Playoffs.

We also wanted to be sure to recognize some of the coaches at Pueblo who led their teams to greatness. Please come up when I call your name:

Francisco Urtuzuastegui – Boys Soccer. He is the Section Coach of the Year, Arizona Daily Star Coach of the Year and State of Arizona Coach of the Year! Congrats!

Ismael Galindo – Girls Basketball. Section Coach of the Year and Arizona Daily Star Coach of the Year

Brandon Sanders – Football. Section Coach of the Year.

And **Kelvin Eafon** – Boys Basketball. Section Coach of the Year.

Thank you for all you do for our student athletes! Let's have our Pueblo Boys Basketball team and our Pueblo coaches come on up.

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Next we have middle school students who have sharp financial minds. The **Arizona Council on Economic Education** holds an annual competition in both economics and consumer finance. The initial contests are online, and students form teams of three or four and answer questions in a multiple choice format. The highest scoring teams are invited to Phoenix for face-to-face competition, and both **Alice Vail Middle School** teams won their categories. They are:

Henry Harms

Jonathan Houge

Ulysses Rascon

Caleb Pacheco

Amanda Goldman

Elise Devell

A third team role-played financial consultants. They produced and presented an analysis of a young family's money problems and recommended solutions for their present and future goals. They are:

James Cryts

Ruben Gamboa

Kyele Imblum

Noah Quiroz

Congratulations to all!

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I would like to congratulate **Davidson Elementary School**, which received the Bronze level award from Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports of Arizona for its work in creating a positive and safe learning environment for its students and community. Davidson was one of 19 schools in the state to receive the Bronze and one of 38 schools state-wide recognized for an award.

Could the Davidson team please come up?

The award is based on national evaluation assessments and measurable student outcome data and recognizes the dedication of school staff and the community to uphold Davidsons ROAR expectations every day. ROAR is an acronym that stands for Respectful, On task, Always safe, and Responsible.

Thank you, Davidson Elementary staff, students, parents and community for coming together and doing great work for all.

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Next I'd like to tell you about some cool work at **Magee Middle School**. Arizona Project WET's School Water Audit Program (SWAP) is a multifaceted curriculum that challenges students to explore areas of potential water savings using a scientific approach. Eighth graders in Joan Flannery and Debra Madsen's classes used the curriculum to perform an audit at their school, and ultimately through what they learned, they made recommendations to school administrators about how to increase the efficiency of their irrigation system.

Not only is this a great way to learn about natural resources, data collection and scientific study, it helps the District, which is working closely with Tucson Water throughout the District to improve our water efficiency and lower our water usage.

I'd like to ask the students and teachers to come on up. And additionally, I'd like to thank Tina Cook, our Energy Projects Manager and Frank Mendoza and Tony Roman who work in Irrigation for providing logistical support.

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Next I'd like to congratulate some outstanding writers from **Booth Fickett**. These students entered a contest put on by Americanism Committee of Tucson East Elks Lodge #2532. The theme for this year's contest was "What I Can Do to Promote Americanism and Love of Country."

Congratulations to the following students, who placed in the contest. When I call your name, please come on up.

6th Grade

1st place: Alyssa Moran
2nd place: Hailee French
3rd place: Delawrence Wells

7th Grade

1st place: Kitanna Parker
2nd place: Mariah Munoz
3rd place: Hailey Smith

8th Grade

1st place: Ryan Lopez
2nd place: Salina Trejo
3rd place: Kylie Szatkowski

Congratulations, everyone!

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University High School's outstanding mock trial team—Team Electrifying—has had an excellent run this year. They went to state in March, and after a long and exhausting day, they made it to the Fishbowl—the final round of competition where two teams battle it out for first place. In the end, Team Electrifying was awarded first place in the state and got the opportunity to compete in Nationals this month.

Congratulations to this hard-working team and their coaches, Jan Wezelman, Susan Shetter, and Madison Dodge. Let's have the coaches and the members of the team come on up.

We have:

Kelsey Berryman

Elizabeth Navarro

Rachel Fletcher

Sonia Jolly

Joyce Wang

Jayasangeetha Thanikachalam

Joanna Jandali

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We love to hear about teachers who go above and beyond to serve their students. Can I please ask **Sheila Marquez** from Tucson High Magnet School to come up? Ms. Marquez was chosen as one of 31 teachers across the country for the Society for Science & the Public 2016-2017 Advocate Grant Program.

Ms. Marquez will receive a stipend of \$3,000 to guide up to five underrepresented students in conducting a scientific or engineering research project and completing applications for scientific competitions. The Society received 240 applications from 45 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Thank you, Ms. Marquez, for securing this opportunity for our students.

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