

Guests

Frank Armenta—Cholla HS Principal

Cholla Staff---5 people

Tsuru Bailey-Jones

Kristian Anderson (community member) and guest

Desire Havyarimana and family (10 people)

Desire Ndabibonye and family (10 people)

Certificates

Frank Armenta

Kristian Anderson, Good Samaritan

Desire Ndabibonye, TUSD Staff member

Good Samaritan

I'd like to tell you the story of a Good Samaritan in our community who stepped up and helped one of our students during his time of need.

Imagine being a middle school boy who just got to America from Burundi. You and your family are refugees and have been relocated to Tucson. You speak no English. You know almost no one. You accidentally got off the school bus at the wrong stop on your first day of school. You are alone and don't know what to do. People are passing you by, not paying attention. Your parents are frantic. School Safety is trying to find you. Our Refugee Services team members are hitting the streets to search for you.

Luckily, a Tucson man took time out of his day to notice you looked lost. He stopped, tried to talk to you and realized you didn't speak the same language. He could have given up—walked away. Instead this man stayed with you. Realized you had a phone number in your pocket—called and connected you to your family and our staff. He stayed until you were safe.

Today we honor this man and our staff who worked after hours. Could Tucsonan Kristian Anderson come up please---along with our staffer Desire (Des-ah-ray) Ndabibonye and our refugee director Tsuru Bailey-Jones. We'd also like to invite the young man Mr. Anderson helped up---his name is also Desire (Des-ah-ray).

(Family may want to speak through interpreter)

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Attendance Awareness Month

Many corners of Tucson connected last Tuesday morning in the library of Hollinger K-8 to discuss the issue of attendance. I joined the superintendents of three other Tucson school districts, Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, the United Way and the University Of Arizona College Of Education to kick off Attendance Awareness Month. We have a video to show you from the event.

(Play video here)

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CTE/JTED Funding and Frank Armenta award

You're going to hear a lot in the coming months about our Career and Technical Education classes as we work to show parents, community members, state legislators and education leaders the value of these classes in our high schools.

Funding for CTE through the JTED program has been cut for the 2016-17 school year. 44 percent of our high school students choose to enroll in at least one CTE class, and Tucson Unified School District stands to lose more than \$1.3 million dollars if the funding isn't restored. That's \$344 per student. The cuts put our programs---like biotechnology, automotive and construction in jeopardy.

Today we have brochures for you that we're handing out to business leaders in southern Arizona to educate them on the value of CTE classes. We invite our board members to use this material to speak with your constituents about this funding cut—if you choose. It breaks down the costs of the classes and shows where our students have landed to start their careers--- everywhere from Jim Click Automotive to Industrial Tool and Die to the University of Arizona and Raytheon.

Over the next few months our communications team will highlight the great success stories coming from our CTE programs. Tonight one of those stories is an award. Could Cholla High Magnet School principal Mr. Frank Armenta come up please—along with any Cholla staff and Mr. Chuck McCullum—CTE director.

Frank was selected as the CTE Family and Consumer Sciences Education "Administrator of the Year!" He received the award for his continuous support of the Early Childhood Education program, the Cholla Afterschool Program "Focus on Fashion", Cholla's Exceptional Education students work-based popcorn program, and TUSD's Early Childhood Centers.

As the 2015 AZ FACS Ed Administrator of the Year, he was honored at the ACTE Summer Conference Awards Luncheon on July 20, 2015, at the Loews Ventana Canyon. Thank you to teacher--- Ms. Gloria Nelson who nominated him.

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Enrollment Update

Many of our schools have shown an increase in enrollment/ attendance in our analysis of 10-day attendance figures from School Year 2014-2015 to School Year 2015-2016. Principals from schools that saw an increase are here with us tonight.

We'll start with Elementary School Principals:

Bonillas, Borman, Cavett, Collier, Cragin, Davidson, Drachman, Fruchthendler, Gale, Holladay, Howell, Hughes, Lineweaver, Manzo, Marshall, Miller, Myers-Ganoung, Tully, Warren, and Wright.

Next up K-8: Dietz, McCorkle, Maxwell, Miles, Roberts/Naylor, Rose and Roskruge!

Middle: Dodge, Magee, and Mansfeld!

And last but not least High Schools: Agave Online High School, Cholla, Meredith, Palo Verde, Pueblo, Rincon, Teenage Parent High School and University High!!!

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Teacher Vacancies

Our Human Resources department continues to work hard to recruit and hire classroom teachers. As of Sept. 1, 2015 we have 62 classroom teacher openings:

- 24 at the elementary school level
- 19 at the middle school level
- 19 at the high school level

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Interscholastics coverage

Our communications team is revving up coverage of interscholastic activities, which we know are a great draw for students and families and a big point of pride in our schools.

Take a look at this cool video from the Sahuaro-Sabino rivalry game.

You can also view it and others on Facebook and the TUSD website. The team will be covering more football games and other sports and interscholastic events going forward.

(Play video here)

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Welcome Home DM Airmen

Tucson Unified staffers spent a few hours volunteering Thursday afternoon at the welcome home event on Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. Borman Elementary School is located on base and many of our students had mom or dad deployed earlier this year. Here's a short video on the event

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Teacher Surprise

One of our outstanding teachers received an awesome surprise on Wednesday.

Cathleen Hall, exceptional education at Doolen Middle School, was honored by Walmart for her dedication to her students and her efforts as a teacher.

She received a gift card for \$513, the average amount teachers spend from their own pockets for supplies, as well as a "Teacher Survival" goodie bag that included a Samsung Galaxy tablet.

Here's a quick video from the surprise event:

Congratulations, Ms. Hall and thank you for being a devoted teacher.

(Play video here)

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