

SSAC Board Presentation September 10, 2013

Good evening President Grijalva, members of the governing board, Dr. Sanchez and Council Tolleson:

My name is Madison Dodge and I am the 2013-2014 president of the Superintendent Student Advisory Council, otherwise known as SSAC. I am here on behalf of SSAC to welcome you to the district and tell you a little bit more about our organization.

SSAC is a group of student representatives from all TUSD high schools that work towards strengthening the community within our district. I have been involved in SSAC since the end of my freshman year at University High school. Over the last three years I have seen SSAC expand into an active and influential organization. During my sophomore year, we began our partnership with local non-profit organization Ben's Bells. Together, we focused on implementing kindness education into our high schools and created the large "Be Kind" murals that you find on every TUSD high school campus. For the past two years, every TUSD high school has also participated in a "Kindness Week," a week dedicated to creating a more tolerant atmosphere on campuses. Last year, SSAC also took on the beginnings of a "college and career readiness" program in which students had the opportunity to learn more about college expectations, applications, and admissions.

SSAC meets once a month at a different TUSD high school, where we gather to discuss prevalent issues and plan our ongoing projects. This year, our goal is to work with Dr. Sanchez on issues we feel are important, but also work together to create a stronger TUSD community. We will continue our kindness week and kindness education programs as well as attempt to filter them into middle and elementary schools. Additionally, we enjoy getting input from board members, district officials, and other community leaders and will continue to invite and encourage participation.

Our biggest goal for this year is to not just continue projects at our individual campuses, but also create events where the TUSD high schools and rest of the TUSD community can come together and have a chance to celebrate the one thing every campus has in common. We are TUSD, and I am proud to say I am getting my education at a TUSD high school.

Our first meeting will be held at Rincon/University High School on September 30th from 9:00am to 11:00am.

Thank you and I look forward to a great year!