

Superintendent Report
December 13, 2016

Living Streets Alliance and their work with Pueblo Gardens

First up tonight we'd like to bring up our very first #TeamTUSD Community Partner. For the past year, we've featured teams within the district staff—and this year we are starting to feature community teams who help with our schools and students.

Our first partner team is Living Streets Alliance! Come on up!

Living Streets has been working with our campuses for several years. They recently completed a wonderful mural installation outside Pueblo Gardens Pre-K-8 thanks to a grant from KaBOOM.

Here's a **video** to show you the work, then we'll hear from Vanessa Cascio and Evren Sonmez from Living Streets.

(Living Streets spokesperson speaks.)

We have a special poster to present to you from the dedication of the murals and your very own #TeamTUSD poster. We thank you!

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Award Notices

We wanted to keep tonight's report pretty short with the later start time, but I did want to make sure I let you know about several awards and recognitions the district and staff recently received.

First up: Our Desegregation Legal Counsel, **Mr. Sam Brown** was recently named one of Tucson's "40 Under 40" by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber. The award recognizes young leaders who are making an impact in the community with their professional and charitable work. Mr. Brown grew up in Tucson Unified Schools and now serves our students by ensuring the district meets and exceeds Unitary Status Plan goals.

Metropolitan Pima Alliance, Common Ground Awards

The Common Ground Awards focus on the collaboration that leads to a project's success. Tucson Unified earned 2 of the 11 awards! First, for our Steps to Success program and second for our Garden-to-Cafeteria program.

As you know, Steps to Success has been a collaboration with the Mayor of Tucson since 2014. We have walked the streets of Tucson six times since then, bringing back more than 400 students. As of August, 64 students have graduated high school and are starting the next chapter of their lives.

Recently, Steps to Success was featured in Denver at the Education Commission of the States Winter Conference. [Here's a short video about it.](#)

We look forward to our next walk in January and we'll ensure that each of you are invited to walk with us.

For the second award, our Garden-to-Cafeteria program is a unique partnership with the University of Arizona and Community Food Bank. We grow food at 5 of our schools and serve it right there to our students thanks to state health department certification.

Another 7 certifications are pending, so by the end of the year we'll have 12! Some of our schools even sell what they've grown at weekly markets allowing the students to become entrepreneurs. As Shirley Sokol, our director of food services said, "The program provides an opportunity for all of us to show our students how to plant a seed for their future."

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Celebrating Innovation in the Workplace Award Finalist, Anna Maiden

Our Chief Human Resources Officer, Anna Maiden, was a finalist in the Leadership category for the *Celebrating Innovation in the Workplace Award* and was recognized at an event last month at Ventana Canyon. The program was given by Society for Human Resource Management of Greater Tucson.

Communications Department Awards

The Communications Department won two awards from the Public Relations Society of America's Southern Arizona Chapter.

The team earned a Certificate of Excellence in a multimedia category. The team won for the video application for a \$100,000 fitness center grant from the National Foundation for Governors' Fitness Councils. As you remember, Hollinger K-8 won the grant!

The team also won an Impact Award for #TeamTUSD, the project that features teams from across the district and what they love about being a part of Tucson Unified.

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