

#TUHSD STRONG

NEWSLETTER

2023



OCTOBER

DO IT WITH PRIDE



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A MESSAGE FROM: Superintendent Jeremy Calles



“ Whether you work in the classroom or cafeteria, work in an office or drive a bus, keep our students safe and secure or clean up at the end of the day, every specific job you have helps us to better serve our students and their families. For that, I want to say thank you. ”

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Dear TUHSD Team,

Welcome to the first edition of the #TUHSDStrong newsletter. As we embark on a new school year, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the unwavering dedication you have shown to the education of our students. Your commitment to our mission and your focus on providing the best possible service to our students is truly commendable. Whether you work in the classroom or cafeteria, work in an office or drive a bus, keep our students safe and secure or clean up at the end of the day, every specific job you have helps us to better serve our students and their families. For that, I want to say thank you.

As we move forward in the school year, let us remember that our collective efforts have a profound impact on the lives of the students we serve. Each day, we have the opportunity to make a positive difference.

I encourage you all to continue to work together, supporting one another, and striving for excellence in everything you do. Together, we can overcome all challenges and achieve our shared goals. Thank you for your continued dedication and hard work; it is truly appreciated.

Warm regards,

Jeremy Calles
Superintendent

#TUHSD

IN THE MEDIA



Click the links to watch!

[What Phoenix-area schools are doing to fill 400+ teacher vacancies](#)

[Tolleson Union High School District names new superintendent](#)

[Convert the gym into classrooms? Southwest Phoenix-area schools scramble to handle growth](#)

[Siblings teach at West Point High School](#)

[Former Avondale student graduates U.S. Navy Flight Academy](#)

[Valley JROTC cadets win scholarships](#)

[Tolleson Union district hires new chief financial officer](#)

[Valley high school district looks to use AI for school security](#)

[Glendale math teacher evolves with the times after a quarter-century in the classroom](#)

[Avondale teen gets experience of a lifetime through U.S. Navy flight academy, earns pilot's license](#)

[12 Arizona high schools ranked among the top 100 in the country, national ranking shows](#)

[Tolleson Union High School District exploring AI to help beef up school security](#)

[Glendale teacher-student return from Hawaii after eulogizing forgotten WWII Veteran](#)

[High School Football Makes a Surprise Comeback](#)



COMPETENCY

CONFIDENCE

CONTRIBUTION



Dr. Briggs Looks for the Three C's: Competency, Confidence and Contribution

Dr. David Briggs is a familiar face around the Tolleson Union High School District. He served as the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction from 1996-2009. He was recently hired to identify any gaps in skills teachers may have based on the current curriculum. He has been meeting with about 16 teachers on each campus to learn more.

What have you been asked to do?

"I was brought in to identify gaps, if there are any, in trainings of teachers. Are there gaps in curriculum implementation according to the people in the field who do the work? You have a wonderful curriculum division and they develop wonderful curriculum. But it's the end user who has to understand it and implement it on a daily basis, who has to see what works and what doesn't work. Hopefully we are giving you the tools necessary [for students] to be competent, confident, contributing members of society. Hopefully, that's what we do."

Where is the district now?

"You've come off a pandemic. You've been given a brand new curriculum. Let's talk. We're a people business. You can't leave people out of the equation. Have you received sufficient training to allow you to take this new curriculum and do what you need to do? Have you had all the training necessary to do that? If not, that's OK. It gives the district an opportunity to say, 'well, there's a gap.' We're asking people to do things they don't have the skills to do or maybe they have all the skills, but they haven't been asked. We have great teachers. They want to be listened to and their voices to be heard."

Adjusting the equation

"Currently, we have a fixed time schedule, a fixed curriculum and a fixed set of assessments. If time is fixed, achievement becomes the variable. Change the equation so achievement is fixed and time becomes the variable. If you want all these kids to reach this bar, they're not all going to do it at the same time. They're not all going to do it the same way. You have to develop systems that allow them to move at a pace commensurate with what they know and can do. Kids have to win. If you believe all children can learn, then let's make that happen."

Welcome aboard Dr. Briggs!

STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS: DR. TYRONE V. HALL



Pictured above (L to R): Lieutenant General Charles G. Chiarotti (retired), Lieutenant General Kevin M. Iiams (Training and Education Commanding General), General Eric M. Smith (acting Commandant of the Marine Corps), Nutashia Hall (Tyrone's wife), Dr. Tyrone V. Hall (award recipient), John Beiswanger (award sponsor), R.G. Oltman (Marine Corps JROTC Director), and Sean Charney (Marine Corps JROTC Assistant Director).

On Aug. 10, in Arlington, Virginia, Retired U.S. Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 3, Tyrone V. Hall, was recognized for his work and awarded the Marine Corps JROTC National Instructor of the Year award.

Dr. Hall served 21 years with the Marine Corps and 9 years as an instructor. In just one year at Tolleson High School, Dr. Hall has already reached milestones.

Dr. Hall was selected for the award as "he demonstrated superb leadership and instructional aptitude," as well as having "displayed exceptional professionalism and unparalleled proficiency as the leadership education department chair at Tolleson Union High School."

This annual award is presented to a senior Marine instructor or Marine instructor for excellence and who exemplifies outstanding performance within the JROTC community.

Congratulations to Dr. Hall for this amazing achievement. We appreciate all that you do for our students.





KENNETH HICKS

In this month's spotlight, we welcome Kenneth Hicks as the new Chief Financial Officer for Tolleson Union High School District. Mr. Hicks joined the TUHSD family recently and says the best part of working for the district so far has been the welcoming and supportive environment he has been met with.

Mr. Hicks previously worked in the Higley, Peoria, Littleton and Dysart districts before coming to Tolleson. He began his career at the warehouse in the Peoria Unified School District and has since found his way to becoming the newest head of the Business Services Department. "I will always be thankful for the people who believed in me and asked me to take on greater roles and responsibilities and to grow as a person," said Mr. Hicks.

Though originally raised in Glendale, Mr. Hicks currently resides in Peoria. He has also lived in Phoenix and Chandler, and has two children – ages 18 and 21. Mr. Hicks confesses he loves a good joke, so if you see him around don't be scared to give him a quick laugh and make his day.



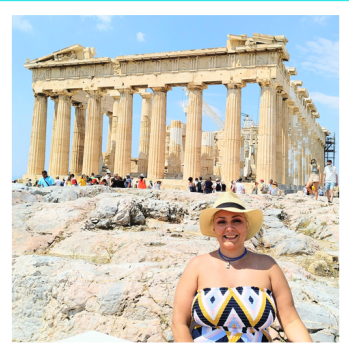
MEET

ROCIO NIEBLA

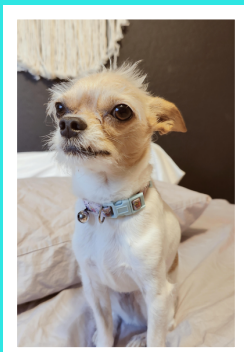


Rocio Niebla grew up in San Diego and resided there for a little over 30 years before moving to Arizona, where she has now lived for about 6 years. Rocio celebrated her one year anniversary working for TUHSD on August 22.

Before coming to work at the Tolleson Union High School District, Rocio worked in the car insurance industry, in San Diego, for 18 years. When Rocio moved to Arizona she transitioned into the education industry by working as a Special Education clerk at Verrado High School and as the district Special Education Admin. Asst. for the Avondale Elementary School District. Rocio says that she enjoys the "progressive environment" and being "surrounded by very intelligent people that inspire [her] and that [she] can learn from."

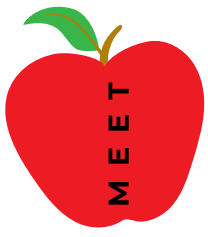


Rocio has a "daughter" Teeny, who is a 4 pound, brown and white haired chihuahua, that she is "completely obsessed with." In her free time, she enjoys painting, drawing and traveling.



Fun Fact: Rocio has traveled to 15 countries (mostly solo trips)!

WELCOME ROCIO NIEBLA!



GALILEA ROBINSON

Galilea Morales Robinson was born and raised in Phoenix and currently lives in Goodyear.

Galilea was first hired to work at Sierra Linda High School as part of the cafe staff, but after about 9 months, she applied for the Nutrition Services Program Specialist position and got the job. She has now been with TUHSD for a little over one year.

"One of the things I like about working for TUHSD, is that I love getting to help parents and students. I also enjoy my peers and the positive work environment we create throughout the nutrition department. "

Outside of work, Galilea is attending Arizona State University for nutrition education. Some of her hobbies include traveling, baking, hiking, and spending time with friends and family.

WELCOME GALILEA ROBINSON!



SARA CLAWSON

As the new Public Relations/Marketing Specialist for the district, Sara will be promoting school and district events and activities and sharing important news with our communities. She will be charged with keeping our website fresh and up to date. This position will also handle all district social media and assist with print and TV media inquiries and coverage. The position is a new role within the Public Relations and Marketing Department at District Office.

Sara previously worked as a reporter for the West Valley View and as a Communications Specialist with Aid to Adoption of Special Kids – AASK, and the Glendale Union High School District. She was also a freelance writer for the Deer Valley Unified School District.

Learning the ins and outs of a school district through her roles with Glendale Union and the West Valley View encouraged her to bring her skills and experience to TUHSD. Her husband, Michael, graduated Class of 1999 from Tolleson High School and her mother-in-law is an administrative assistant in the Pendergast Elementary School District. She lives in Avondale and has one child attending Legacy Avondale and two kindergartners at Littleton STEM Academy. You could say it was only a matter of time before Sara found her way to our district.

Sara shares that after working remotely for the last five years while raising her children, she is excited to be back in an office and eager to build relationships with coworkers, colleagues and the TUHSD community.

In her spare time, Sara enjoys listening to Broadway musicals, reading everything from the classics to modern romance novels, and is a big fan of coffee. She has a very brown thumb but aspires to one day keep her houseplants alive.

WELCOME SARA CLAWSON!



MEET

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↖ Hello, my name is Aaliyah Brambila and I am a senior at Arizona State University, where I am studying Journalism and Mass Communication, with a focus in Public Relations. I was born and raised in Arizona and have lived in many cities across the Valley, with Tolleson being the longest reign. I graduated class of 2020 from University High School, so it is nice to be back in the district to see all of the changes that have been made. My ultimate career goal is to become a social media manager/ content creator in the sports/ entertainment industry. Outside of school and work, I enjoy attending concerts, thrifting, photography, traveling and building my presence on social media.

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MEET

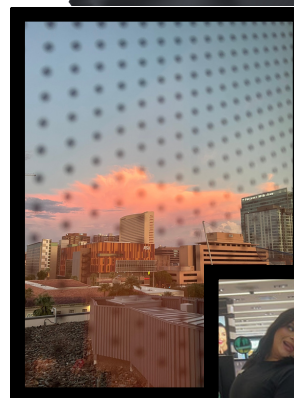
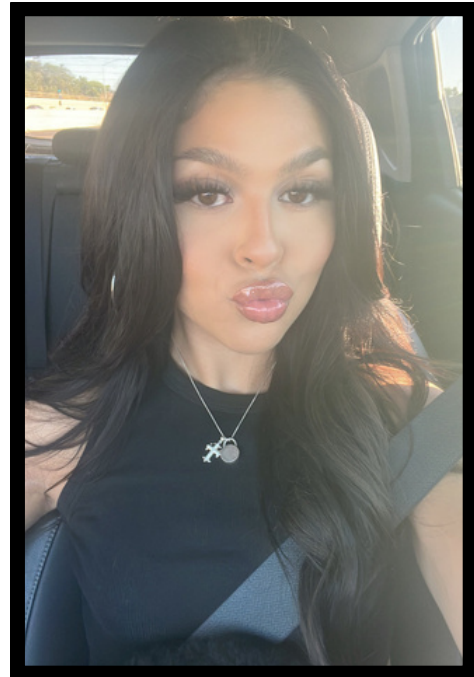
JORDIN WATSON



Hi! My name is Jordin Watson, and I am thrilled to start as one of the two new student interns for the fall 2023 semester. I am currently a senior at Arizona State University and am expected to graduate in December 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and mass communications, with a focus in Public Relations and a minor in fashion.

I'm incredibly passionate about anything related to fashion and beauty, and after graduation hope to find a job within public relations or digital marketing in either of those industries. I also work part time as a Beauty Advisor at Sephora, and am an assistant to a registered nurse practitioner/injector specializing in filler and Botox.

I have lived in Arizona all my 21 years of life and attended Pinnacle High School in north Phoenix. I currently reside in Downtown Phoenix, which is my favorite area of the city because of all the art murals, trendy food spots and cafes. In my free time I enjoy working out, shopping, going to vintage markets, and trying new places to eat with my friends.





DON'T MISS OUT!

Enjoy savings of up to 22% per ticket for select home games in the 2023 season with no minimum ticket requirements through this exclusive offer.

BENGALS @ CARDINALS

OCT. 8
1:05 P.M.

[CLICK FOR TICKETS](#)

[CLICK FOR TICKETS](#)

49ers @ CARDINALS

DEC. 17
2:05 P.M.

DO IT WITH PRIDE



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AALIYAH BRAMBILA

JORDIN WATSON