



Do iT With Pride!

Friday, February 5, 2021

Celebrating the life of Dr. Charles A. Landis



It is with sadness and a heavy heart that we share that Dr. Charles A. Landis passed away on the morning of Friday, January 22, 2021. Dr. Landis was a longstanding icon in our community for over forty years. His contributions to the Tolleson Union High School District as a former Superintendent, and Tolleson Union High School in particular, made an enduring positive difference.

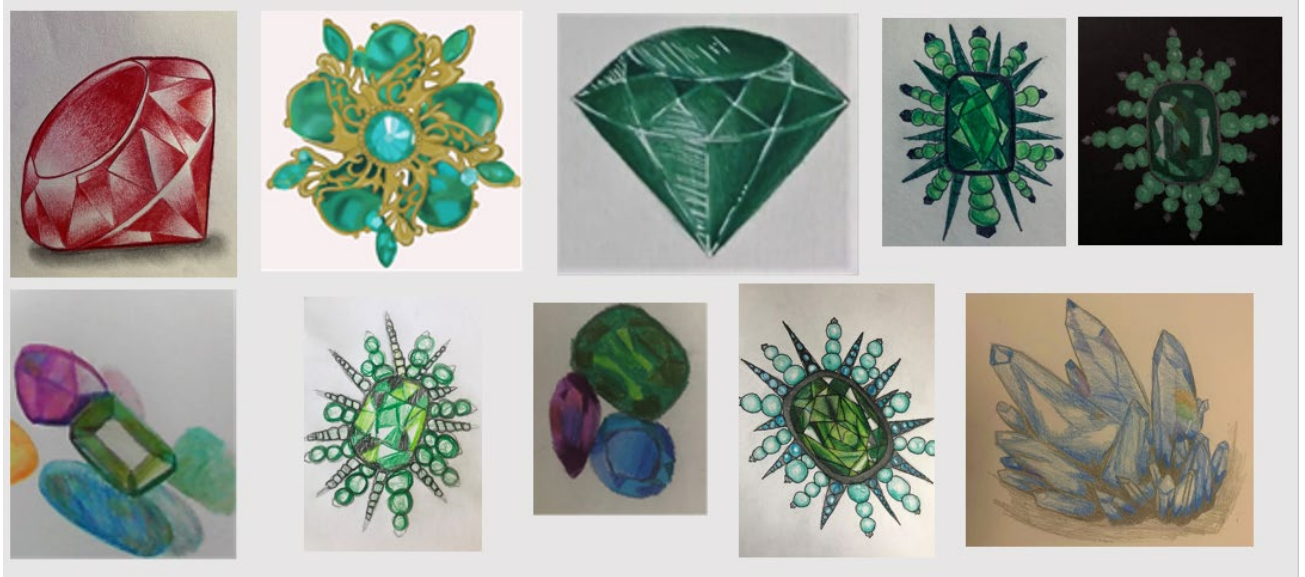
Dr. Landis arrived in Arizona in December 1978 where he became superintendent of the Tolleson Union High School District, a position he held until 1992. After his departure from TUHSD, he spent three years as superintendent of the Gila Bend Unified School District before returning to the Valley of the Sun where he served as principal of Tolleson Elementary School from 1995-1997.

Dr. Landis has the distinction of having the Tolleson Union High School stadium named after him; the Charles A. Landis Football Stadium. Since 1982, Dr. Landis served as a member of the Tolleson Service Committee. The Mickie Diaz/Charles A. Landis Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was one of his favorite events each year. He enjoyed being part of this annual event and welcoming all of the volunteers, staff, students and community members to share this special day together.

He had a servant heart and was always willing to reach out to anyone in need. Dr. Landis touched countless lives as a teacher, administrator, community partner, volunteer, mentor, colleague, as well as a friend. Dr. Landis' kindness and generosity made an impression on all who knew him. He will be greatly missed. TUHSD shares its heartfelt condolences with the Landis family. They will be in our thoughts during this difficult time.

Students are our hidden gems

As part of an art project, West Point art teacher Ms. Valentina Dima had her students draw hidden gems. These are some examples of the students' artwork. We want to thank Ms. Dima for giving her students such a creative assignment as our hidden gems actually drew these hidden gems!



Christopher Bennett receives honor from the Arizona Council on Economic Education



Mr. Christopher Bennett, The District's Instructional Leadership Coordinator for Social Studies, Gifted & AP, has been honored as our District Specialist Recognition Award recipient for the Fall of 2020 by the Arizona Council on Economic Education.

This dedication has come in the form of scheduling district in-service sessions with ACEE as well as using other free teacher and student programs that the organization offers. This intentional focus will empower teachers and educate students so that all school-aged children grow up to become economically and financially responsible employees, parents, citizens, and leaders in the future.



ACEE goes on to say that Mr. Bennett has gone above and beyond to further economic and financial literacy education in the Tolleson Union High School District. Congratulations to Mr. Bennett and as Teresa Mungai, Director of Programs, from ACEE stated, "they look forward to continuing their relationship with the Tolleson Union High School District."

Copper Canyon High School's Henderika TeNuyl receives a grant from SRP and the Arizona Cardinals

Copper Canyon High School's Henderika TeNuyl received a grant from SRP and the Arizona Cardinals through their Touchdown for Teachers program. She just started building a brand-new Graphic Design program at the school. With the \$500 cash prize, Ms. TeNuyl wants to buy a larger piece of equipment and supplies for the class and her students so that she could use it to create school spirit merchandise. She also wants the students' input as well.



Employee Spotlight – Tiffany Weed



We want to welcome Tiffany Weed, our Medicaid in Public Schools Specialist. Tiffany started with us in September 2020. This is Tiffany's first job with Tolleson Union. Prior to TUHSD, she worked for the Phoenix Elementary School District for about 4 years in the Student Services-Special Education Department as the Medicaid Specialist.

So far, Tiffany likes it. "Everyone has been so welcoming and provided me with great knowledge of what they do. I'm excited to be a part of a team that is as passionate as I am to help our special population students to thrive in their programs," said Tiffany.

Tiffany currently lives in Surprise, AZ. and has been there since 2000. Prior to that, she lived in Phoenix. "I'm a native Arizona girl. Born and raised here in Phoenix, AZ."

Tiffany has two kids, which are her pride and joy. "My son Max is 19 years old and is a sophomore in college attending the University of Cincinnati in Ohio. He is a student-athlete on scholarship for competitive swimming," said Tiffany. He is majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Chemistry. His future plans are to attend medical school. "My daughter Carly is a junior in high school and attends school in the Dysart District. She is on the Varsity Cheer team and is on the Junior Dance Company team," said Tiffany.

Tiffany used to own a small bakery business for over 13 years. "I started creating custom cakes for my kids when they were younger," she said. "My specialty was custom wedding cakes and I worked for all the top venues throughout the Valley". Her cakes were even featured in Arizona Wedding magazines. "I have a passion for working with people to offer my help and guidance. It's all about being a part of a team and providing great customer service," she added.

Welcome New Warehouse Employees

Stephanie Varela – Warehouse Clerk



Stephanie Varela started working for TUHSD on November 5, 2020. “I did work previously for TUHSD from 2004 to 2008,” said Stephanie. “I went through training to become a school bus driver in the Transportation Department. Before that, I worked for Cartwright School District in the year 2000 when I was 18 years old.” Stephanie was also a Teacher’s Aide and school bus monitor. In 2008, Stephanie went to work for the State of Arizona for a couple of years at the Department of Economic Security. After that, she drove a school bus for the Fowler Elementary School District until 2010.

“In October of 2010, I went to work for the Tolleson Elementary School District as a school bus driver and warehouse lead clerk,” said Stephanie. “I was there for 10 years, and now I am here at TUHSD in the warehouse. So, overall I have been working for our public school system for about 21 years now.

Stephanie adds that she feels right back at home at TUHSD. “Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful,” said Stephanie. “The people here are great! I am a mom of three children I have two that are students at TUHS, one freshman (her daughter) and her son is a senior. “My little one attends Arizona Desert Elementary at TESD in the 3rd grade,” said Stephanie. “Thank you so much for being so welcoming. I appreciate it.

Jose Moya – Warehouse Clerk



Jose Moya is also a new Warehouse Clerk at the District warehouse.

“I started at TUHSD in November 2020,” said Jose. “I came here from the City of Phoenix after 28 years of employment.” Jose says he likes the atmosphere here at TUHSD. “Everyone is very welcoming,” he adds. “I am looking to be here for many years to come.”

At the City of Phoenix, Jose was a Parks Foreman. “I was in charge of 11 parks and 6 facilities,” said Jose. “I had a great staff and enjoyed what I did.”

Jose says he has six children, seven grandchildren, and he adds, “my German Sheppard, Amigo.”

“I hope to get to meet all of the staff here at TUHSD,” says Jose. “Thank you for giving me the opportunity for TUHSD staff to get to know me.”

Contribute to the Wolverine-Knight Foundation

The Wolverine-Knight Foundation, founded in 1982, is a non-profit organization/corporation (501.c.3) that assists students across the Tolleson Union High School District #214 by offering financial assistance through scholarships, perfect attendance awards, excellence in art and other educational endeavors.

As a non-profit organization, the Foundation looks to the generosity of others to sustain its mission of serving the students of our District. Donations are tax deductible. Every bit helps. Please consider contributing in one of the following ways as even \$1.00 per pay period would yield a substantial difference in our efforts. The Wolverine-Knight Foundation appreciates your individual contributions to the overall education of our youth.

WOLVERINE-KNIGHT FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 611
Tolleson, AZ 85353

CONTRIBUTION and VOLUNTARY PAYROLL DEDUCTION AUTHORIZATION FORM January-December 2021

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\$ _____ You set the amount of each bi-monthly deduction, or

\$ _____ One-time donation

I authorize the Tolleson Union High School District to deduct the amount indicated above from each remaining paycheck for the balance of 2021, ending with my last paycheck in December 2021.

I authorize this deduction to be submitted to the Wolverine-Knight Foundation for scholarships and other endeavors as listed.

Employee Name (print): _____

Employee Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please forward your completed form to the District Payroll Department

FOR PAYROLL USE ONLY

Begin on Payroll # _____

End on Payroll # _____

Entered by: _____

Date: _____

Copper Canyon High School AP Capstone Letter

Congratulations are in order for Copper Canyon High School. Their AP Capstone Letter of Agreement has been signed and officially processed. As a result, the school is now eligible to join the cohort of schools that will implement AP Seminar—the first of the two AP Capstone courses—in the 2020-21 academic year.

Immediate next step: Register teachers for the AP Capstone summer professional development in California, public health permitting. Training is required for all educators assigned to teach AP Seminar for the first time in fall 2020.

Virtual sessions will be offered across multiple time zones. If a teacher has not attended required training for Fall 2020, and there are no more summer training sessions available, the school will have to defer implementation to the 2021-22 school year.



Please check the #TUHSDStrong tab on our website (www.tuhsd.org) for archived versions of our updates. Take care and stay healthy.

