



Do iT With Pride!

Wednesday, November 20, 2020

TUHSD Override passes!

We want to truly thank the Tolleson voters and community for passing our override during this most difficult year. Our constituents have consistently and overwhelmingly supported our students and our district year after year. Education is a priority for our community and our voters continue to demonstrate that at the polls each and every time. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your generous support will continue to ensure that our students follow the path of educational excellence.



Welcome new Governing Board Member

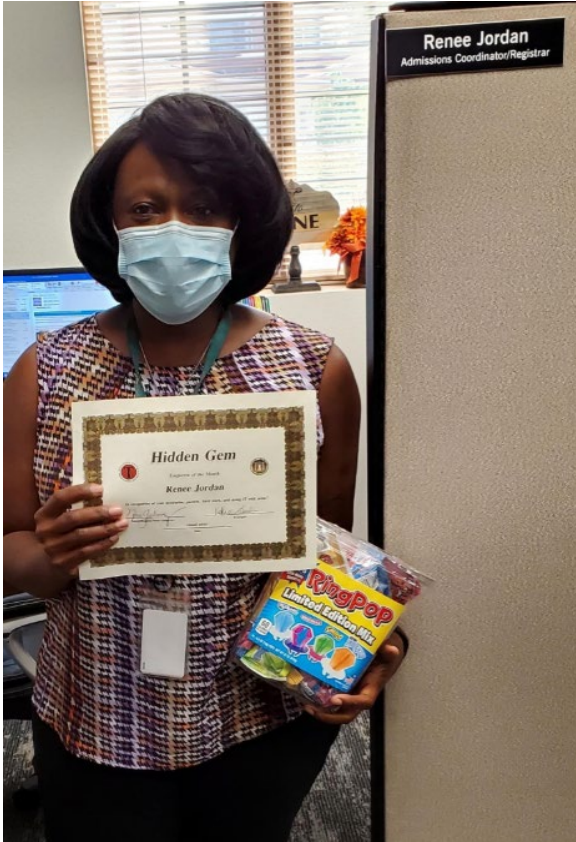
Please join us in welcoming Dr. Elda Luna-Najera to the Tolleson Union High School District Governing Board. Dr. Luna-Najera was appointed to the Tolleson Union High School District Governing Board on November 9, 2020, by Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson to fill a vacancy. Dr. Elda Luna-Najera is a Licensed Master Social Worker in the state of Arizona. The majority of her professional work has been with families and children in non-profit settings and public education. Her passion for working with children and youth has brought her to serve homeless and foster care youth in public high schools. She currently serves as the Agua Fria Union High School District Liaison for Foster Care and Homeless Education. Dr. Luna-Najera has been a resident in the Tolleson Union High School District for over 18 years. She believes that schools have always played a critical role in student success and that strong social-emotional health in conjunction with equitable academics will lead to a strong foundation for all students on their diverse paths after high school.



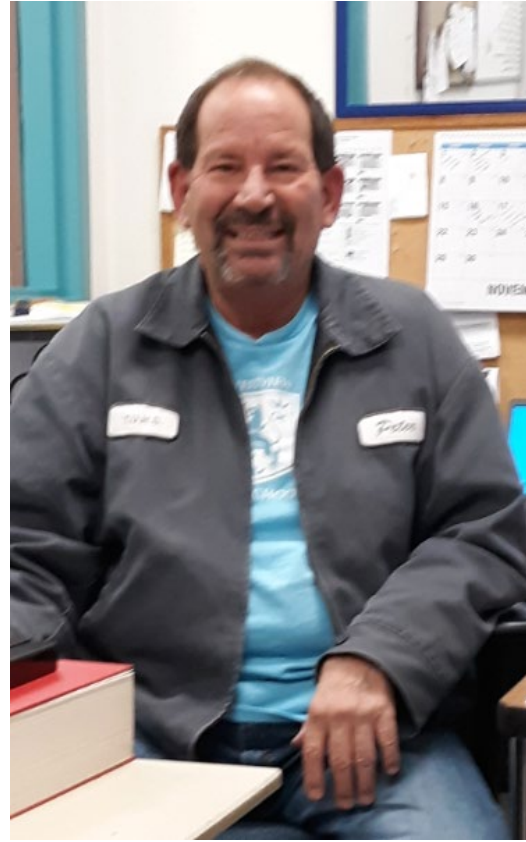
TUHSD HIDDEN GEMS

TUHSD has grown from a Hidden Gem to a beacon in the West Valley, thanks to our amazing teachers. We all treasure our gems; we keep them in the best condition possible because we are so proud of them. We polish them regularly and love to see them shine. We celebrate our Hidden Gems for supporting Student Academic Achievement and Doing iT with Pride!

Thank you for going above and beyond and doing your jobs with Pride!



Renee Jordan
Registrar
University High School



Peter Vallone
Facilities Manager
Westview High School



Employee Spotlight – Garrett Godoy



Garrett Godoy, Network and Project Manager in our Technology Department, joined the TUHSD team in April. Going on seven months now, Garrett says, "Wow, time flies when you're having fun!"

Garrett started his K-12 career in 2008 in one of our partner districts, Tolleson Elementary. Initially as a contractor for two years, Garrett was on-boarded as a full-time district employee. "I left TESD as the Director of Technology in 2016 to pursue an opportunity where I was hired as the Director of Network and System Services for Mesa Public Schools," said Garrett. "Now I'm back home serving the wonderful community of TUHSD."

Garrett says everyone here at TUHSD has a real passion for what they do and the mission and vision of the District drives them.

"I love that we are giving our staff and students opportunities like no other district out there," he said. "As I've heard mentioned several times, Tolleson is a hidden gem and I feel proud to be a part of such an amazing District."

Previously, Garrett lived in Avondale and Buckeye; he currently resides in Litchfield Park. "I was born and raised in a small city called La Verne in Southern California and moved to Arizona in 2000," Garrett said.

Garrett has five kids; a 20-year old son, a 17-year old son, a 15-year old son, a 13-year old son and a 5-year old daughter. "My grocery bills are pretty high!" adds Garrett.

"I am happiest spending quality time with my family and friends," says Garrett. In his spare time, Garrett enjoys swimming, biking and running, and has completed too many half and full marathons to count. "My will to train for triathlons or ultra-trail runs has helped me to be able to push through hard life events and never give up," he added.

Welcome to the Tolleson Union High School District Garrett!

Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Daniel from West Point High School

Congratulations are in order for one of West Point High School's teachers. Lynn Daniel, now forever known as Dr. Lynn Daniel, graduated this semester with her doctorate degree.

Dr. Daniel wanted to share her success with her colleagues, so she asked that her hooding take place out on the quad in the presence of Principal Brandi Haskins and other staff members, who were socially distancing during the photo shoot. Dr. Felipe Baez, had the honor of hooding Dr. Daniel on Thursday, November 5 at 3:30 p.m.

Here is additional information on Dr. Daniel:

University: Concordia University Chicago

Degree: Ph.D.

Major: Reading, Language, Literacy, & Leadership

Dissertation: "Teacher's Attitudes About Teaching Adolescent Refugee Students"

She is an English teacher in West Point High School's Leadership Academy.

Congratulations Dr. Lynn Daniel!



Our thoughts go out to Mr. Ash Friederich's colleagues and family

WEST VALLEY VIEW NEWS | NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Tolleson teacher dies at 40

BY WEST VALLEY VIEW STAFF

Ash Friederich, a Tolleson Union High School teacher and coach, died Oct. 31.

Friends reported he died of COVID-19.

He was 40 years old.

"In his wake is a multitude of family, friends, students, co-workers stunned at his loss," Ruth Montgomery said in an online fundraiser. "In the days that have followed, many stories of how he has lived, loved, and continuously impacted the lives around him have surfaced and largely resound the outstanding nature and character of the man he was."

For more information or to contribute, visit gofundme.com.

Nora Gutierrez, the TUHSD superintendent, sent a letter to district family members.

"We received heartbreaking news this weekend that one of our beloved Tolleson Union High School/University High School teachers and coaches, Ash Friederich, passed away. Mr. Friederich's death was unexpected and heartbreaking," she said.

She added there was no information on a memorial service.



Ash Friederich, a Tolleson Union High School teacher and coach, died Oct. 31. (Photo courtesy GoFundMe)

"Death can be difficult for us to understand, especially when it is sudden. ... Social workers and counselors will be available to receive your phone calls and set up a virtual TEAMS meeting with you to help you deal with any feelings you may be having. They will also be available at any time during the day to help if you feel a more urgent need to talk with someone," Gutierrez stressed.

"We want to encourage those students who may be particularly upset, perhaps even struggling with a death in their family or of a friend, or just in need of additional support, to reach out."

She noted there will be no public ceremony remembering the teacher, as, "Unfortunately at this time students cannot congregate at the school."

Copper Canyon gets state recognition for PBIS

Copper Canyon High School has been named as a state PBIS school program winner, by the state wide PBIS advisory council. Copper Canyon was encouraged to apply because of their use of PBIS during the pandemic crisis to support students, staff, and community. Copper Canyon will now be submitted at the national level.



TUHSD hosts Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers STEM Night

Tolleson Union High School district hosted its first SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers) STEM night in October. Spread over two days, students and their families got to discuss applying for STEM degrees, obtaining financial aid, and the benefits of having a college degree.

On the second night, students were able to partake in some exciting STEM-based demonstrations. Different volunteers from ASU's SHPE Chapter explained concepts such as gravity, chemical/enzymatic reactions, and even coding in Binary. Students from all campuses also enjoyed several STEM-based competitions, with three lucky students taking home brand new Hydro flasks and a Harmin Bluetooth speaker! ASU SHPE and TUHSD will continue to collaborate and produce quality STEM opportunities for our students in the future.

Christina Schmidt, a Chemistry AP Teacher at West Point High School said, "thank you to SHPE at ASU and their student volunteers who took their own personal time to educate our district's students on the college/university enrollment and financial aide processes, as well as providing hands on (virtual) science demonstrations in all science content areas. We look forward to working more with them to provide science and engineering opportunities for our students and more STEM Nights!"

Hector Medrano, a junior at West Point High School in Chemistry AP said, "my experience with SHPE at ASU overall was very enjoyable! It was a very informative and interactive two nights. I am grateful that I attended both STEM nights, as I would not have learned the information provided in any other way. I enjoyed the science demonstrations on the second night, especially the Elephant's Toothpaste chemistry demonstration."



Westview students receive AP Capstone honors

Congratulations to Westview students for their recent accomplishments on receiving Capstone Diplomas from College Board!

A student who completes the AP Capstone program is called an AP Capstone Scholar. Participating in such a prestigious program allows these students to truly stand out in the crowd when applying for college. The program develops the student's key academic skills and helps them to become independent thinkers and problem solvers.

The AP Capstone diploma is not just valued here on American soil, but also abroad, and is recognized by some of the top universities in the world.

Congratulations to the following students on their accomplishments.



WHS CAPSTONE SCHOLARS

WHS Capstone Scholars

“ EXCELLENCE FROM ALL, FOR ALL ”

“ EXCELLENCE FROM ALL, FOR ALL ”



ANFILL KERUBO MASIOGE

GENESIS ELIZABETH RIVAS

SERGIO HUMBERTO GARCIA

DISSELLE QUEZADA

MA LEONILLE THERESE DELA CRUZ SILFAYAN

CITLALLI CARDENAS BARRAGAN

MOLLY KEELER MORGAN

ANDREA DIAZ ACERO

WINTER MACKENZIE VILLAPLANA

REAGAN O'NEIL

LEXIS IVETH CORONADO

ASHLEY JOANNA TAPIA

AUNDREA SHANTELLA ROMERO

JONATHAN TRUONG MINH PHAM

SYDELLE HUITZIL

LISA MICHELLE PADILLA HERRERA

CONNOR EDGAR KIPHART

JONRIC LLANDOS NERA

KATHERINE THU NGUYEN

DESIREE CELESTE SANTANA

RICHARD JOSEPH VASQUEZ

CHRISTINE TRUC ANH TRAN

Annual Mickie Diaz/Charles A. Landis Thanksgiving Day Dinner canceled

The annual Mickie Diaz/Charles A. Landis Thanksgiving Day Dinner has been canceled for this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This would have marked the 38th straight year for this beloved community event. In a letter to the community, the Tolleson Service Committee, who hosts the event, said "our top priority is the health and safety of the community and our volunteers; we believe the decision to cancel this year's dinner is safest for all concerned." We all look forward to having this popular community event in future years.

TOLLESON SERVICE COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 339
TOLLESON, AZ 85353

October, 2020

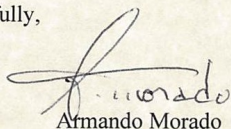
Dear Friend:

For nearly forty (40) years the Tolleson Service Committee has sent a letter requesting financial support and/or donations to help support the Annual Mickie Diaz/Charles A. Landis Thanksgiving Day Dinner. This would have been the thirty-eighth (38) year we have served the community, however with the present COVID-19 health guidelines, it is with heavy hearts that the Tolleson Service Committee has decided not to have the Dinner this year. The pandemic has resulted in financial hardships for families in our community, making this a difficult decision. Our top priority is the health and safety of the community and our volunteers; we believe the decision to cancel this year's Dinner is safest for all concerned.

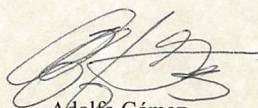
As discouraging as this is, the Committee will begin a plan for the 2021 Dinner, and continue our primary mission (other than the annual Dinner) to financially assist community members in need. In addition to informing you of the cancellation of this year's Dinner, the Tolleson Service Committee is asking for your continued support by making your annual contribution to allow us to continue our efforts on behalf of the families in Tolleson. The Committee is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and depends on monetary donations from friends like you. Your assistance and generosity over the years is greatly appreciated and now we need your support more than ever. We will always value your past kindness and generosity and expect to be back in 2021 to continue the great tradition of the Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the community.

We wish you the very best during these trying times and hope to hear from you either by mail, or through the use of our online donation service accessible at our website www.tollesonservicecommittee.org. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at 602-810-5481 (Armando Morado) or 602-370-9650 (Adolfo Gamez).

Respectfully,



Armando Morado
President



Adolfo Gámez
Vice President

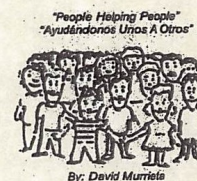
Henry Bustamante - IMO
Mickie Diaz - IMO
Diego Espinoza
Kino Flores
Adolfo Gámez
Tina Gámez
Ignacio Gastelum
Lupe Herrera
Linda Laborin
Charles A. Landis
Emiliano Morado
Freddie Villalon
Armando Morado

Honorary Members
Rebecca and Sonny Martinez

TOLLESONSERVICECOMMITTEE.ORG

The Tolleson Service Committee is a 501(c)(3) Foundation.
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Tolleson Union High School District honored by SRP for Outstanding Commitment to Energy Efficiency and Sustainability

Last month, Salt River Project recognized 'Champions of Energy Efficiency' in the community. These are organizations that go above and beyond to conserve and be more sustainable. TUHSD received the well-deserved Peak Reduction Award. The award recognizes the SRP Business Solutions Program participant and project that delivered the highest peak-demand savings of all projects submitted.

Here is just an excerpt as to why TUHSD was given this award: "The Governing Board of the Tolleson Union High School District continually partners with SRP to make projects more affordable, evaluate emerging technologies and reduce its carbon footprint. The district converted buses from diesel to propane, upgraded to LED lighting and improved HVAC systems, along with several other increased efficiencies. It implemented a long-term strategy to reduce energy consumption by strategically investing in capital upgrades and the expenses will be offset by rebates, reduced maintenance and reduced energy costs.

In the future, the district plans to implement solar and convert its bus fleet to electric. Tolleson Union High School District saved more than 4.6 million kilowatt hours and reduced its peak demand by 1,267 kilowatts, which is enough to power 358 homes. School leaders say students are witnessing the district's commitment to energy efficiency and learning lasting and invaluable life lessons to conserve and be green."



Tolleson Union High School District grateful to its municipal and county partners during the pandemic

TUHSD wants to thank both the City of Phoenix and Maricopa County for their donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) items during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the City of Phoenix donated masks, hand sanitizer and gowns. In addition, Maricopa County stepped up and donated white fabric masks.

To assist with our technology needs, Maricopa County has also awarded the District 5,000 hotspots totaling over \$1 million through their Digital Divide Initiative, which acknowledges that students without access to technology and/or internet are at a severe disadvantage during the pandemic. Previously, the District had ordered 700 hot spots through M & O funds.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us keep our students and staff safe!



Sierra Linda High School auditorium wins Design Award

We are proud to announce that the Sierra Linda auditorium has won a major design award. Thank you to McCarthy Construction for their wonderful design and build of this state-of-the-art facility. Click on the link below to see Superintendent Gutierrez's acceptance speech

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3GCsjlgtXE&feature=youtu.be>



Thanksgiving Break November 23-27

Next week is Thanksgiving Break. Schools and District Offices will be closed. Given all of the challenges in 2020 that the pandemic has brought, this is a good time to take a moment to remember what we are thankful for. Superintendent Gutierrez shared that she is thankful for the entire Tolleson Union High School District COMMUNITY (Voters, families, teachers, staff, and Governing Board members), who are united to ensure our students receive the best education possible, and receive all of the support they need to be successful. She wishes our staff, students and their families a wonderful Thanksgiving Break, with time to take a pause and reflect on all that we have to thankful for, and STAY SAFE.



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

