

#TUHSDSTRONG

Do iT with Pride!

TUHSD Staff Monthly Newsletter from the
Superintendent's Office



OCTOBER 2021



Dear Tolleson Union High School District Teachers and Staff Members,

Student academic achievement continues to be our united focus in everything we do at TUHSD. It takes each and every person doing their part, with this common goal, to be successful.

Thank you all for your support throughout the pandemic and these challenging times as we strive to provide the best education possible for our students and keep our schools open. I am so very proud of your dedication and showing up to work every day, doing your job, and staying positive and encouraging for our students and each other.

We are doing everything in our power to provide a healthy and safe environment for our students, staff and their families. We continue to follow CDC and County Health Department recommendations and using layered mitigation strategies such as vaccinations, proper wearing of face masks, social distancing when feasible, and enhanced cleaning to help reduce transmission of COVID-19 and other airborne viruses. These mitigation measures will help us maintain in-person learning and avoid disruptions to student learning. We all need to do our part to keep everyone healthy.

Together we are TUHSD Strong!

Sincerely,

Nora Gutierrez



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University High School Named a National Blue Ribbon School for 2021



This month, U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, announced and recognized 325 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2021. This recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

We are thrilled that University High School is the only high school in the state of Arizona that received this honor. As a school within a school, University High School students enjoy the benefits of being a member of an academically focused small learning community, along with all the opportunities that a comprehensive school provides. The U-High administration, teachers, and staff are passionately focused on the academic achievement of every student in their care. They challenge their students every day, while providing resources and supports to ensure student success.

We are so proud of University High School and the academic leadership and hard work of the students and staff. U-High has long been achieving at a high-level and this national recognition validates that hard work, putting University High School on the map as one of the best high schools in Arizona and the nation.

We also wish to acknowledge the important role Tolleson Union High School plays in the success of U-High students. TUHS provides the social opportunities for U-High students, including diverse electives and extra-curricular opportunities that supports a healthy, well-rounded students. TUHS and U-High truly work together for the success of all students.

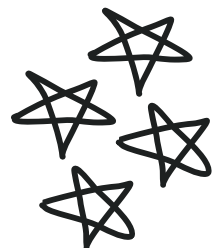
University High School was recognized by local publications such as [KJZZ](#) and [Patch](#) for being awarded with the National Blue Ribbon Award for 2021.

Congratulations to all U-High staff for this amazing award and recognition!



TUHSD Awarded Arizona Hot Shots!

TUHSD has received recognition from the Arizona Partnership for Immunization. We have received a Hot Shot Award for 2021 for “our commitment to increase immunizations by going above and beyond the call of duty.”



Dr. Rosalva Lagunas receives recognition at the National ALAS Conference

This past week, Superintendent Nora Gutierrez and Dr. Rosalva Lagunas attended the National ALAS conference in Washington, D.C. Congratulations to Dr. Rosalva Lagunas, Director of Grants and Federal Programs, on her recognition at the ALAS Conference. Dr. Lagunas graduated from the ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA), Cohort X. Dr. Lagunas participated in this year-long program, beginning in August 2020, and due to the pandemic, it was held virtually. Members of her Cohort had the opportunity to listen and learn from superintendents across the nation. Sixteen other members were in Dr. Lagunas' cohort from across the country. They were able to share and learn from each other.

The ALAS Superintendents Leadership Academy's Goal is to recruit and prepare Latino(a) school system leaders to become superintendents of school districts in the U.S. with an emphasis on Latino-serving school districts having a population of Latino students 20% or higher.

"I am grateful to have this opportunity to be part of this nationally recognized organization and be in a space where I am inspired and encouraged to continue to develop my leadership skills," said Dr. Lagunas. "It wasn't until I came to the district that I felt accepted and saw people like me in these leadership roles. I want our students to see us and know that they, too, deserve these opportunities. I will continue to share my story to inspire other future leaders."

Congratulations Dr. Lagunas on a recognition that is well-deserved!





Son of Former TUHSD Teacher in the Tokyo Olympics

A former Westview teacher's son went to the Tokyo Olympics. Will Thompson taught Social Studies, PE and coached at Westview for many years (before that he coached at Tolleson). He was an amazing teacher! His son, Brett Thompson, plays for the U.S. Rugby team and he scored a goal against the South Africa team.

Congratulations Brett!

TUHS Teachers Attend the SkillsUSA Arizona Conference



TUHS Business teacher, Richard Southern, and TUHS Digital Photo/Media teacher, Brigid Constable, attended the Skills USA/FBLA Arizona conference in Tucson in late August. Richard and Brigid attended workshops and presentations on how to take their program of work to the next level. SkillsUSA Arizona was facilitated by National SkillsUSA advisor, Jenni Englebright and hosted by CTSO State Director, Julie Ellis, and SkillsUSA State Advisor, Daniel Kelly.

Thank you Richard and Brigid for all that you do to better your programs.

Westview MCJROTC's 9/11 Tribute

On 9/11/2021, 20 years since the devastating acts on 9/11, the Westview High School MCJROTC participated in the 911 Tower Challenge at the Gila River Arena. The challenge calls upon people to climb the 2,071 steps or 110 floors that equate to what the Twin Towers consisted of. This is done in honor of those fallen heroes who lost their lives on 9/11/2001.

Our Westview cadets persevered and had the motivation to complete the challenge.



School Unity

In an effort to tie each school under the umbrella of the Tolleson Union High School District, we have posted the District logo on each electronic marquee. We are also looking at getting permanent signage on the structure of the marquees to further show the community that whether you are Sierra Linda in Phoenix, Copper Canyon in Glendale, Tolleson Union or University High in Tolleson or La Joya, Westview and West Point in Avondale, all of these schools are proudly part of the Tolleson Union High School District.



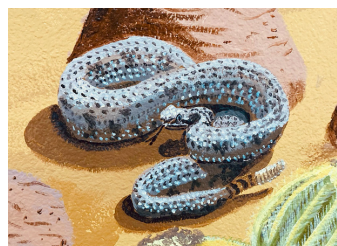
yes!

Westview High School gets a Beautiful New Mural

Over the summer, former Sierra Linda Art Teacher, David Murrieta, painted a beautiful mural on one of the blank walls at Westview High School.

It took a few months for the project to be completed, but the end result was a nice, colorful mural that students can enjoy for years to come.

Thanks for sharing your talent with Westview High School Mr. Murrieta and for brightening up an otherwise blank wall.



Door Decorating Contest at West Point

As part of College and Career Week at West Point High School, teachers participated in the annual door decorating contest. While all of the doors were amazing, we are pleased to announce the winners and showcase their wonderful classroom doors! Thank you to all who participated!

1ST PLACE

Nan Chen, Mandarin



2ND PLACE

Karola Bond, Chemistry



3RD PLACE

Marianne Galfano, Digital Photography



Spotlight on Robert Herzog, Transportation Director

This month we want to welcome our new Transportation Director, Mr. Robert Herzog. Mr. Herzog started at TUHSD on June 7. Mr. Herzog comes to our district with plenty of experience.

"I have been the Director of Transportation at Washington Elementary School District in Phoenix, Director of Transportation at Scottsdale Unified School District, and the Maintenance, Operations and Transportation Director at Murphy Elementary School District," said Herzog.

"This District has so many good people here," said Herzog. "The transportation department is a leader in student transportation. It is an honor to be part of such an amazing team."

Robert now lives in Avondale. He grew up in Glendale, but he has lived all over the country.

"One of the most beautiful places I have lived in is Arkansas," said Herzog. "The trees in the fall are a sight to see."

Robert grew up mostly in the West Valley.

"I had family that lived in Avondale and I visited often."

"I am very blessed to have two daughters," said Herzog. "My oldest is married and works for the Peoria Unified School District. My youngest is a junior in High School."

Mr. Herzog loves what he does.

"I have an amazing life and wouldn't trade it for anything," said Herzog.

Robert's hobbies include playing golf, although he admits that he is terrible.

"I love to fish and camp, and love spending time with friends and family."

Welcome to the Tolleson Union High School District Mr. Herzog!



Spotlight on Lauren Subia, Public Relations and Marketing Intern

Hello everyone!

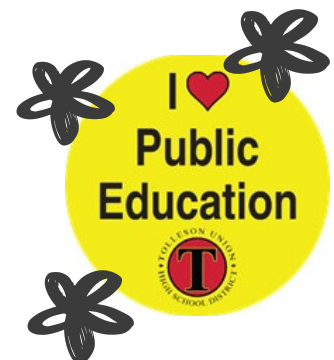
My name is Lauren Subia. This semester I am proud to be a part of the TUHSD family as a Public Relations and Marketing intern working under Mr. Joseph Ortiz, the district's Public Relations and Marketing Director.

As a Native Arizonan, I grew up in the East Valley with my parents, younger sister, younger brother, and three dogs. I attended Chandler High School where I was a member of the CHS Cheer Team and National Honors Society. I graduated from Chandler High with High Honors in 2018.

Currently, I am a senior at Grand Canyon University, double majoring in Communications and Marketing & Advertising with a minor in Professional Writing. While at GCU, I have been a member of the Latino Student Union and a writer for the GCU chapter of Her Campus, a digital magazine written for college women by college women.

In my free-time, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. You can catch me trying out local restaurants or coffee shops, shopping, or watching the latest shows and movies.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be here at TUHSD and look forward to working alongside you all this semester!



Outstanding TUHSD Students

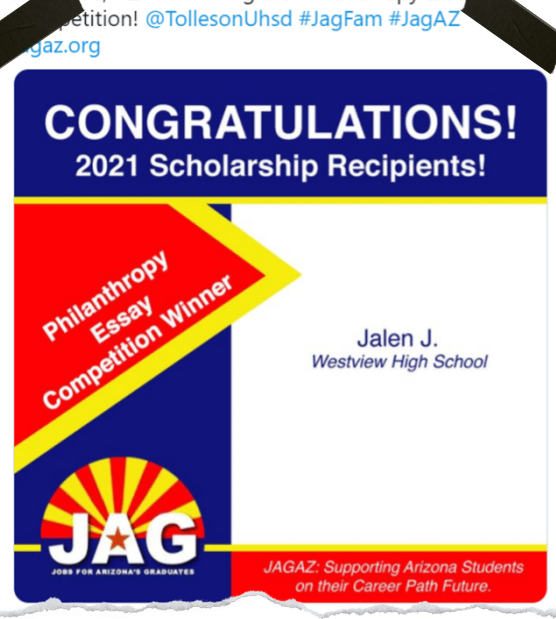


ERICA

We are so proud of Erica Pastoriza, a 4-foot-10 junior who wrestles at Sierra Linda High School in Phoenix. She was named to the Arizona Republic's 2019-2020 All-Arizona Girls Wrestling Team.

Over the summer, Erica won the Women's wrestling 88-pound weight division finals at the 2021 Cadet World Championships held in Budapest, Hungary. We look forward to seeing bigger and better things in her wrestling career at Sierra Linda High School.

Click [here](#) to check out a West Valley View article about Erica and her sister, Lisa!



JALEN

Congratulations to Jalen J. of Westview High School!

Jalen has received recognition and a scholarship as the Philanthropy Essay Competition Winner in the Jobs for Arizona Graduates essay competition.



TUHSD In the News



BEYOND THE GRIDIRON: TOLLESON

Tolleson is working with the Arizona Republic as part of the docuseries they are producing on the football program. The docuseries will follow the 2021 football season through the eyes of Tolleson players, coaches, and fans.

The Arizona Republic has already started promoting and filming the project with the first few episodes available on the [azcentral website](https://www.azcentral.com).

We look forward to seeing what this season has in store.

Go Wolverines!



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Beyond the Gridiron: Tolleson



TUHS TEACHER WINS KTAR'S GAYDOS AND CHAD TEACHER TRIBUTE

Denny Riccelli, who teaches ninth and tenth grade math at Tolleson Union High School, has been named KTAR News 92.3 FM's Gaydos and Chad Show's Pay Tribute to a Teacher winner for August! Teachers nominated for this award consistently show various acts of selflessness around their campus and community.

In his interview with KTAR, Riccelli revealed that, "If a kid tells me that they need something, I will go buy some of it, make sure that that kid had whatever they need,"

He has purchased water bottles, food, school supplies, and backpacks for students who need them. Wow!

Congratulations Mr. Riccelli, you deserve it!

To read the KTAR News article about Mr Riccelli, click [here](#).



WEST POINT IN THE WEST VALLEY VIEW



Coverage of our West Point PAC ribbon cutting and unveiling of the new Performing Arts Center made the front page of the West Valley View.

We are looking forward to the great concerts and plays at this new venue. The students and the community will make great use of it.



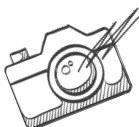
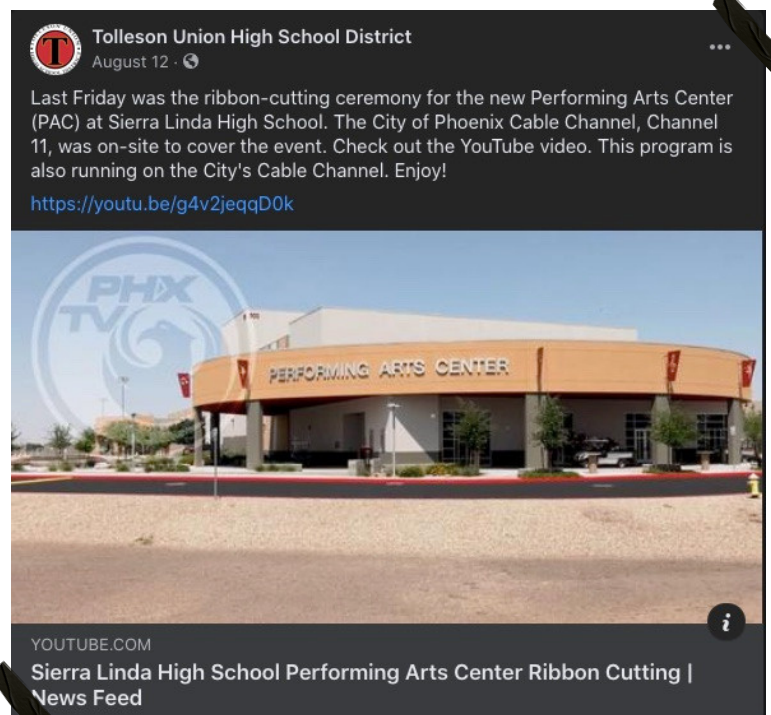
SIERRA LINDA ON CHANNEL 11 FOR THE CITY OF PHOENIX

The City of Phoenix Cable Channel prominently featured the ribbon cutting and unveiling of the Sierra Linda PAC. The City produced a half-hour segment on the grand opening. The program ran during the month of August on Channel 11 for the City of Phoenix.

To watch the news feed, click [here](#).

The Sierra Linda PAC was also featured on the City of Phoenix's Youtube channel as a part of their recurring PHXTV Classroom segment.

To watch the video, click [here](#).



GREAT DONATIONS FROM PROJECT C.U.R.E

TUHSD received donations for hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes from the organization Project C.U.R.E. TUHSD and Litchfield Elementary School District split the donation evenly between our two school districts. This is a direct result of our affiliation with the Southwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, who approached us over the summer to see if we wanted to receive these donations. TUHSD received 31 cases of hand sanitizer with a value of \$1,890 and 15 cases of disinfectant wipes for a total of \$1,260. Total value of the donation is \$3,150.00.



Click [here](#) to read the West Valley View article about the donations!

SEPTEMBER 15TH- OCTOBER 15TH IS NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH!

This month we recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have positively impacted U.S. culture and inspire others to achieve success.

Learn more about ways to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by clicking [here](#).



OCTOBER 14, 2021: FREE HEALTH FAIR

Health Fair



FREE Health Fair
Thursday, October 14, 2021

- ♥ United Healthcare, Cigna, Delta III, Basic FSA and so much more!
- ♥ 7500 WellStyles points awarded!
- ♥ Please visit the WellStyles table to get your voucher code!



Time: 2:00-5:00pm
Location: District Office



MYVALLEYSCHOOLS.ORG



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