#TUHSD STRONG APRIL - NEWSLETTER - 2024













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Latest News

GCU gets together for Speak Up, Stand Up, Save a Life conference



Preparing High School Students for High-Tech Manufacturing Jobs





ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES AVAILABLE TO ALL EMPLOYEES



A new class designed to help our employees learn and become proficient in English started in January. Offered at Copper Canyon and La Joya Community high schools, the classes are held every day except Wednesday. Employees are welcome to attend any and all classes they want.

The idea to offer English classes to our employees came out of Superintendent Jeremy Calles' Listening Tour. Christy Pacheco teaches the class at Copper Canyon. She said it is helping empower employees who want to be more confident in their language skills.

They have expressed gratitude that the district has invested in them in this way,

If you are interested in taking the class, there is no need to pre-register or sign up. Just attend the campus and time that is convenient for you and your schedule. You do not have to be based at those schools to attend. This program is open to all employees in the district. Please check in with your supervisors prior to attending.

Copper Canyon High School

9126 W. Camelback Road, Glendale Room 1234 **Instructor Christy Pacheco** Christy.Pacheco@tuhsd.org Class Time: Mon./Tues./Thurs./Fri.: 2:05-3 p.m.

La Joya Community High School 11650 W. Whyman, Avondale Room 1406 Instructor Laura Locker Laura.Locker@tuhsd.org Class Time: Mon./Tues./Thurs./Fri.: 1:05-2 p.m.

MR. CEJA AND MR. GHAVEZ ELECTED TO THE ASPAA BOARD



Congratulations to Deputy Superintendent, Mr. Juan Ceja, and Director of Human Resources – Support Staff, Mr. Andrew Chavez. Both were elected board members in November of 2023 to serve a 1-year term on The Arizona School Personnel Administrators Association (ASPAA), an organization that comprises hundreds of Human Resources representatives in school districts throughout the State of Arizona. Mr. Ceja sits on the Executive Board as Vice-President Elect and Mr. Chavez is the Central Region Representative.

Part of the Mission of ASPAA is to promote the interchange of ideas, data and information regarding talent management and other best human resource management practices in order to effect advancement in the administration of school personnel.

"I have been a member of the ASPAA for 16 years and relied heavily on other HR professionals to help me through difficult personnel challenges such as state budget cuts, changes to state laws, and staffing shortages to name a few," said Mr. Ceja. "After being named ASPAA Administrator of the Year in 2022, I decided to give back and serve on their Board of Directors. I was fortunate to have been elected as Vice-President Elect in November 2023."

Mr. Ceja said his goal is to help ASPAA in its efforts to promote and advance public education in Arizona and help school HR personnel grow as leaders through professional development and networking opportunities to better serve the students and staff members in all school districts.

As for Mr. Chavez, he stated that he chose to get involved in the ASPAA Executive Board because he is deeply passionate about fostering positive workplace environments and maximizing the potential of individuals within organizations. With a strong background in education and a commitment to continuous learning and growth in this field, Mr. Chavez believes he can contribute valuable insights and strategies to enhance ASPAA's HR initiatives.

"By serving on the Executive Board, I aim to collaborate with fellow professionals to develop and implement policies that prioritize employee well-being, diversity and inclusion, talent development, and organizational effectiveness," said Mr. Chavez. "I am also enthusiastic about the opportunity to network with a diverse team of professionals who share a common goal of advancing HR practices within ASPAA and making a positive impact on its members and the Tolleson Union High School District community."

COMMITEE GATHERING INPUT ON FUTURE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



A new TUHSD Family Resource Center (FRC) is in the works. An FRC is a space used by district families and community members.

It often includes a multi-purpose area, computer lab, kids' corner, meeting spaces and opportunities to serve others. For instance, students in the Early Childhood Education classes can gain practical learning skills by working in the kids' corner.

The FRC could serve as a clothing closet or food donation site for students and families. It could also provide opportunities for partnerships with universities and community colleges, mental health facilities, academic support, parent enrichment, health, and wellness agencies and more. Officials have held several stakeholder meetings to hear input on where the building should be, what programs should be offered, how it should be used, staffing and budgets. The meetings are open to the public.

TUHSD is also working on a proposal for the Family Resource Center. This center will serve all students and the Tolleson community. The center may include various resources such as academic support, family engagement, and other resources to meet our community's diverse needs.

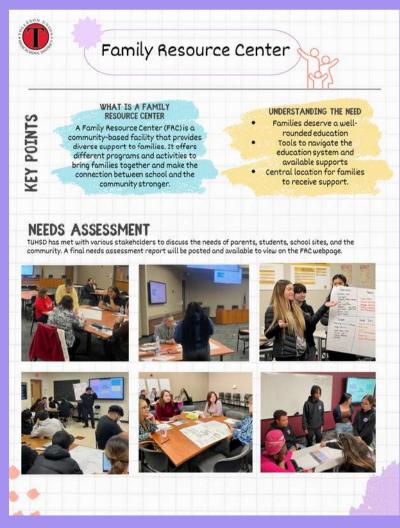
This proposal will be created in collaboration with stakeholders and the district. There are three phases to the project:

Phase 1: Research

Phase 2: Stakeholder Collaboration

Phase 3: Finalizing the proposal

The project is currently transitioning into phase three. For updates visit https://www.tuhsd.org/family-resource-center



MUNDALE TOYOTA DOMATES GAR TO TURS

Automotive technology students at Tolleson Union High School have a new ride to fix up thanks to Avondale Toyota. The dealership contacted teacher Eric Arevalo about a 2010 Camry they wanted to donate to the Career and Technical Education program. Valued at about \$6,000, the car is in working condition and will be a great permanent addition to the program. The donation was approved by the Governing Board at the February 6 board meeting and officially drove onto campus February 15.

Students have cars to work on every day, but they're typically owned by employees or community members who need their car returned before the day is over. Because the Camry is now owned by the school, there is no deadline for students to complete the work. They can spend multiple days applying their learning and how to fix what may be going on. It also allows Arevalo the option to "create" problems to the car for students to troubleshoot.

The automotive technology program is just one of 18 different Career and Technical Education options available to students in our district. To learn more, visit tuhsd.org/career_and_technical_education







CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CTE STUDENTS

February was Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. On social media, we made a concentrated effort to recognize the teachers and programs within the CTE Department throughout the month. We wanted to share with you some recent awards won across the district. This is a small sample of the wonderful work our students and teachers do!

Copper Canyon Aztec Media team:

Grey Duarte Siara: Region Champion for Digital

Photography

Alberto Castro: Region Champion for Sports &

Entertainment Marketing

Sujey Morales: Region Champion for Sports &

Entertainment Marketing

Joel Haro: Second Place for Intro to Business

Communications

Joel Haro: Second Place for Intro to Marketing

Joel Haro: Third Place for Intro to Financial Math

Jesus Vargas Padilla: Third Place for Intro to Business

Communications

Ximena Toscano: Third Place for International Business







SLHS FBLA-Media Team

Destinee Anderson: Third Place, Intro to FBLA

Erza Leyva: Second Place, Help Desk

Jose Balderas: Third Place, Digital Photography



Kadijah Rivera: Third Place, Healthcare Administration

Hayley Diaz Chavez and Anthony Hitson: Third Place, Sports and

Entertainment Marketing

Kadijah Rivera and Jazmin Vega Mares: First Place, Sales

Presentation

Competitors Azul Gomez Montoya, Ariel Quiroz, and Lorenzo

Mauricio were also impressive in their competitions.

Westview High School: FBLA Business and Coding Students

Carlos Pedroza: Second Place, Introduction to Marketing

Concepts

Fernando Villalobos Pedroza: Second Place, Introduction to

Information Technology



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CTE STUDENTS

Sierra Linda High School FBLA-Business Team:

Leah Armstrong: First Place, Future Business
Education, Second Place, Parliamentary Procedures
Diego Bastidas: Second Place, Parliamentary
Procedures, Third Place, Word Processing

Eric Dunford: Second Place, Parliamentary Procedures

Mickenzie Haskins: Third Place, Advertising

Giovanni Macias: Second Place, Photo Editing

Steve Martinez: Second Place, Sales Presentation

Alex On: Second Place, Parliamentary Procedures,

Third Place, Business Calculations

Mathew Ruiz: Second Place, Parliamentary

Procedures, Second Place, Word Processing

Sierra Linda Top 10 winners from the Online Testing Tournament (October - November 2023):

Eric Dunford: First Place, Parliamentary Procedure Marneko Ruiz: Second Place, Banking & Financial Systems B

Alex On: Third Place, Parliamentary Procedure B, Fourth Place, Business Communications B, Fifth Place, Business Calculations B, Sixth Place, Introduction to Financial Math B, Ninth Place, Business

Communications C

Cristhian Narcia: Fifth Place, Introduction to Business C, Eighth Place, Business Calculations B, Ninth Place, Parliamentary Procedure C

Adrian Soto: Eighth Place, Sports and Entertainment

Management A, Eighth Place, Business

Communication C

Giovanni Macias: Eighth Place, Introduction to FBLA B

Westview High School: FBLA Business and Coding Students

Carlos Pedroza: Second Place, Introduction to

Marketing Concepts

Fernando Villalobos Pedroza: Second Place, Introduction to Information Technology



West Point High School-FBLA IT

Graham Van Der Beek: First Place Cybersecurity

Oliver Pippen: First Place, Intro to Parliamentary Procedure

First Place Team: Calliana Ferworn, Esmeralda Felix, James

Breakall, Andres De Leon, Oliver Pippen for Parliamentary

Procedure

Brayan Dominguez: Second Place, Cybersecurity

James Breakall: Second Place, Intro to Parliamentary

Procedure

Vincent Nguyen: Second Place, Personal Finance, Third Place,

AgriBusiness

Melanie Bricero: Third Place, Help Desk

West Point High School DECA Marketing

Test Medalists: Ignacio Perez Soto, Jahmia Griffin Miliana Valenzuela, Fernando Anguiano Aranda, Daviahna Grado Velazquez: Third Place, Marketing Graphics Challenge Vynessa Quezada, Mayrin Muniz Uzueta: Third Place, Hospitality Services

Alexa Anaya: Second Place, Apparel and Accessories Marketing

Isaiah Watley: Second Place, Sports and Entertainment Marketing

Ignacio Perez Soto; First Place, Food Marketing Phoenix Segnini: First Place, Retail Merchandising Fernando Anguiano Aranda, Alyssa Perez, Ignacio Perez Soto: First Place, Goose Chase Challenge

HOSA Regionals Competition:

La Joya Community:

Jacklyn Flores qualified for Research Poster.

Teams competed in Public Service Announcement, Health

Career Display and Health Career Photography.

Sierra Linda High School: The following students qualified for the state competition through the online testing option:

Jeanne Murebwayire: Medical Assisting

Marlete Ramos: Medical Reading

Stephanie Martinez: Clinical Nursing

Nadia Lopez: Cultural Diversities & Disparities in Healthcare

and in Nutrition

SKILLSUSA REGIONALS SHOWCASE

OUTSTANDING MEDIA AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TALENT AT LJCHS

By Guest Writer, Heather Eaton

The SkillsUSA Region 5 Regionals was held at Glendale Community College on February 23-24. La Joya Community High School students competed for the first time, making a mark with stellar performances across multiple categories. Students earned top positions and several qualified to move onto the state conference.

- State Qualifiers in Photo: Anaya Yglesias and Samantha Ojeda showcased their photography skills, securing the 8th and 10th positions, respectively, and earning a ticket to the state competition.
- Promotional Bulletin Board: Estephanie Luque,
 Fernanda Gonzalez, and Laylana Vazquez clinched the
 2nd position in the Promotional Bulletin Board
 category, demonstrating creativity and effective
 communication skills about their program.
- Career Pathway Showcase: Emily Vazquez, Genesis
 Perez, and Jacqueline Uwiringymana secured the 1st
 position in the Career Pathway Showcase: Arts and
 Communications category, highlighting their ability to
 articulate the planning of Trunk or Treat.
- Action Skills: Alexander Rickett demonstrated exceptional skills, securing the 3rd position in the Action Skills category.
- Customer Service: Ashanty Morales showcased exemplary customer service skills, securing the 2nd position in the Customer Service category.
- Job Demo Open: Anaya Yglesias demonstrated her skills in an open job demonstration, earning the 3rd position in the Job Demo Open category.
- Audio/Radio Production: Jolene "Alyse" McGath and Chloe Chanthalangsy, both freshmen, impressed the judges with their audio/radio production skills of creating a podcast, securing the 3rd position. It's noteworthy that these students have already initiated a Spotify Podcast, showcasing their enthusiasm for the field. CRAS Conservatory of Music also awarded them with brand new podcasting equipment!







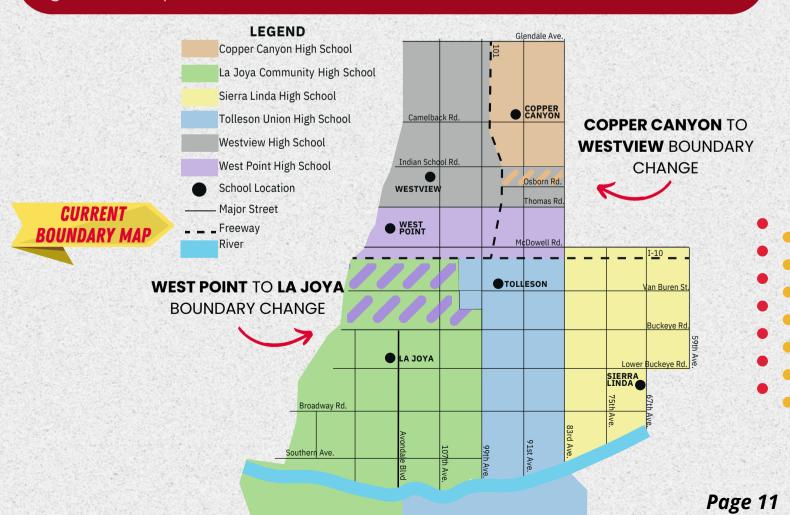
The LJCHS community is proud of its students' accomplishments, and the success at the Region 5 SkillsUSA Regional Conference is a testament to the dedication and talent present within the school. The state qualifiers are now preparing to represent LJCHS at the upcoming state competition in March, and the entire school is rallying behind them, wishing them continued success on their journey.

TOLLESON UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKES BOUNDARY CHANGES TO ALLEVIATE POTENTIAL OVERCROWDING ISSUES

At the Governing Board meeting on February 6, the Board unanimously voted to accept the recommendation by Administration to make necessary boundary changes in order to stay ahead of overcrowding issues while the District contemplates building a new high school at Broadway and Dysart roads. The proposed changes will help to evenly distribute student enrollment and account for future growth. The affected schools include Copper Canyon High School, La Joya Community High School, Westview High School, and West Point High School. The boundary changes will go into effect for the 2024-2025 school year.

Current students affected by the boundary change may choose to stay enrolled in their current school. Incoming Freshmen will register according to the new attendance boundaries. If parents would like their child to attend another school outside of their attendance boundary, they can apply for Open Enrollment, provided the requested school has capacity.

Students with a pending or accepted status can choose to keep the same submitted registration or update to a different school.





Dr. Elda Luna-Najera

TUHSD Board President

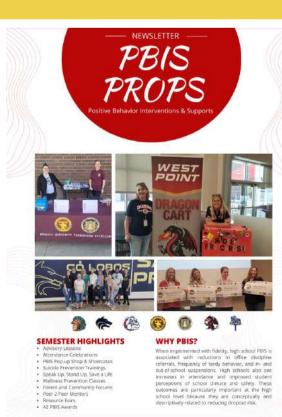
BOARD PRESIDENT APPOINTED TO NEW ROLE

Congratulations are in order for TUHSD Governing Board President, Dr. Elda Luna-Najera. Last month, Dr. Luna-Najera was appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors to fill a vacancy. A unanimous vote declared her the newest member of the Arizona Legislature. She was officially sworn in March 1 at the House of Representatives to represent LD22. Her term will end in January 2025, unless she decides to run for a seat in the July 30 statewide primary.

Congratulations, Dr. Luna-Najera! We know you will do well representing our state!

PBS PROPS NEWSLETTER

The TUHSD Intervention and Prevention team is excited to share the very first PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports) Newsletter!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



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LEAH NORRIS





Leah Norris is the Administrative Assistant for Curriculum and Instruction at the District Office. Prior to that, Leah was the Administrative Assistant for Registration and Instruction at West Point High School. Leah has been working for the district since July of 2022. Leah is from Flagstaff and currently lives in Avondale. She graduated from Northern Arizona University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology and a Bachelor's degree in Psychological Sciences.

Working for the district overall for almost two years now, Leah loves the community here at TUHSD and the population it serves.

Leah is a mother to three grown children, ages 25, 23 and 22. She loves crafts, reading, and looking to grow her own community and develop here at TUHSD.

Leah, we are excited to have you here!



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



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ANGELA GARCIA





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Angela Garcia joined the Grants Department in November 2023. She previously worked at a charter school for 23 years, where she served in many roles including Social Worker, College and Career Coordinator, Academic Counselor and Office Manager.

Her dedication to supporting homeless and foster care students stands out prominently, as she provided resources, support and guidance to those in need. Garcia has a personal connection to homelessness: She is the parent of a homeless adult, which fuels her drive to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

Prior to working in the education field, she worked in banking for seven years. Now, as a Student in Transition Coordinator and Point of Contact for Homeless and Foster Students, she provides essential resources and support to students, families, social workers and the community.

Originally from South Phoenix, Garcia now resides in Peoria with three of her children and two grandchildren. She graduated from Arizona State University and proudly represents the Sun Devils everywhere. A passionate sports fan, Garcia proudly cheers for Arizona teams, including the Diamondbacks, Phoenix Suns, and Arizona Cardinals.

Garcia spends her free time hiking, cooking, and enjoying the company of her friends and family. She has recently discovered a new hobby in archery and hunting.

"I am proud to be a part of the TUHSD community and excited to work with such a great department," she said.

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Ms. Garcia as she begins her exciting career with TUHSD.

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT





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ANDREA MADSON





Andrea Madson joined the Tolleson Union High School District as an intern for the Nutrition Services Department. She started in January. "After that, I will intern with Adelante WIC (Women Infants and Children), a supplemental government program that provides mothers and their children with access to nutritious foods," Andrea said, adding that she would also be interning with Phoenix Children's Hospital. "I am working on my master's degree with Grand Canyon University in dietetics to prepare for the RDN (Registered Dietitian Nutritionist) exam," she said.

Madson was born and raised in Melba, a small village in Idaho. She went to college in Utah, which led her to an opportunity to spend a semester in Perm, Russia. She lived with a host family and taught an English immersion kindergarten class.

"My husband was in the Marine Reserves, so we spent some time living near Camp Lejeune in North Carolina," said Andrea. "We started our family in Nampa, Idaho where we lived on Peppermint Drive. Isn't that a fun address?" she added. She has lived in Avondale for the past 15 years.

This is Madson's first time working for the Tolleson Union High School District, but not the first time she has been involved with TUHSD. She is a mother of four and her children have either graduated, currently attend or will potentially attend a TUHSD school. Her oldest son graduated from La Joya; her oldest daughter graduated from West Point; her younger daughter is currently a junior at West Point; and her younger son is in middle school at Legacy Traditional-Avondale. Before joining the TUHSD team, she was a stay-at-home mother for her children and an on-call substitute for Legacy Traditional School. Madson has enjoyed her time at TUHSD, saying she "feels at home here."

During her free time, she enjoys reading, cooking, sewing/quilting, refinishing furniture, volunteering, playing piano, bass guitar, and of course being a student. We are pleased to welcome Andrea to the team!

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



MEET

AJEREEN Carbonell

My name is Ajereen Carbonell and I am an intern under the PR and Marketing Team. I am currently a student at Arizona State University, majoring in Digital Audiences.

Previously, I worked as Referral Care Coordinator for a home healthcare agency. However, I realized that my true passion lies in the realm of marketing and communications, which led me to pursue further education at ASU.

Growing up in Tolleson and attending Tolleson Union High School, TUHSD has always held a special place in my heart. When the opportunity to intern for TUHSD came up, I applied with no hesitation. I have to say that it feels like my education journey is coming full circle.

When I am not doing my intern duties, you can find me at home, spending time with my husband and our 4 dogs, or planning my next adventure. Travel is a passion of mine, and I am proud to have been able to explore 5 different countries already. My goal is to visit at least 70 countries in my lifetime.

I am excited to be back in the TUHSD community not as a student, but as an intern dedicated to contributing to the special spirit of our school district.











Hello everyone! My name is Anthony Sanchez, I'm one of the new Public Relations and Marketing interns for the Tolleson Union High School District. I was born and raised in Phoenix and have lived here my whole life. I currently attend Arizona State University and I'm pursuing my bachelor's degree in Sports Journalism.

I started working for the district at the beginning of the year, but I am no stranger to TUHSD. I graduated from Sierra Linda in 2018. I attended SLHS for all four years and was a trombone section leader for the marching band and the president of the MECHA program during my senior year.

Prior to joining the team at the TUHSD office, I worked at Walmart as an Electronics Associate for over four years. Along with being a PR and Marketing intern, I am a caregiver for my younger brother.

I am thoroughly enjoying my time here at the TUHSD office. I'm very grateful for the opportunities I've gotten to experience so far and I'm hoping to contribute everything I can during my time here.

Outside of work, I enjoy a variety of things. I'm a huge sports fan and I'm a fan of all the Arizona sports teams along with being a diehard fan for Pumas de la UNAM, Liverpool FC, Coras FC, and the Mexican national soccer team. Skateboarding, Pokémon, and professional wrestling are other things I have a true passion for. If I named everything this would be an essay! Shoutout to my dog, China!











<u>@tolleson.girls.wrestling</u> puts in the work! Their daily rigorous practice sessions build champion athletes! <u>#fyp</u> <u>#girlswrestling</u> <u>#wrestling</u> <u>@azpreps365</u> <u>@tuhs_wrestling</u> <u>@tuhs_2024_seniors</u> <u>@tollesonstuco</u> <u>#tollesonaz</u> <u>#sports</u> <u>#highschoolsports</u>







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SOCIAL MEDIA



@tuhsd214









Jewish Holocaust Survivor Charlotte Adelman shared her experience with Copper Canyon students. It was a once in a lifetime moment for many as she told how she lived in secrecy for nine months and was separated from her family for years. #jewishhistory #holocaust #holocaustsurvivor #livinghistory
@coppercanyon_aztecs #fyp @ccaztec

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DO IT WITH PRIDE



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