



## TOLLESON TIDBITS

The Latest District News

### **HISPANIC ADVOCACY COUNCIL**

Hilda Ortega Rosales, Grants and Federal Programs Coordinator, was asked to become a member of ASU President Crow's Hispanic Advocacy Council. The Council is comprised of elected officials, educators, and community leaders who have an opportunity to provide input to current and future programs that positively impact ASU's goals to recruit, retain, and graduate Hispanic students.

### **STUDENTS ATTEND FUTURE EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION STATE CONFERENCE**



Due to their interest in the career field of education, several students were invited to join the opening session of the Future Educators Association (FEA) State Conference. The General Session they attended included presentations by FEA State Director, Gerry Gorcoran; Grand Canyon University College of Education Dean, Dr. Kimberly LaPrade; 2012 Arizona Teacher of the Year, Nancie Lindblom; 2 FEA Moment Speeches (given by local high school students), FEA State Officer Speeches, a Parade of Flags, and Competition Awards Recognition from a variety of areas including: Exploring Education Administration Careers, Exploring

Professional Support Services Careers, Inside Our Schools, Instructional Technology Lesson, Program of Activities Multimedia Presentation, Public Service Announcement, Spotlight on Special Education, Technology Video, Essay Writing, and Chapter Blog.

### **LA JOYA TEACHER HONORED BY STUDENT**

The following letter to the editor appeared in the March 15 edition of the *West Valley View* newspaper:

Editor:

Your teacher of the week acknowledgments caused me to reflect on those teachers who made a difference in my life. While the list is long, Mr. Joseph Schuch from La Joya Community High School deserves special recognition. What makes Mr. Schuch unique is his dedication to the families of past and present La Joya students. I have seen Mr. Schuch buy groceries for La Joya families facing food emergencies. He can be found in hospitals late at night supporting family members of critically injured students. He is in his room after school helping families understand medical bills and calling doctor offices to arrange payment plans. He frequently provides lunch money to students who otherwise would have gone without. Lastly, he is at almost all sporting and extracurricular events taking pictures and cheering on students. Despite not being a student of his, Mr. Schuch reached out to my family and me in our time of need. Without being asked, he provides daily bus money so I can continue attending La Joya and thus graduate on time. He provides me part time work cleaning desks and dry erase boards in exchange for help purchasing a prom dress and a school year book; two things I never would have

had. A retirement plaque on Mr. Schuch's wall reads: "Integrity first, Service before self, and Excellence in all we do (the core values of the U.S. Air Force). Though Mr. Schuch is retired from the military, he still lives by those words every day. He is an unsung hero who shuns the spotlight while always putting the needs of students first.

Antoinette Gaskins, Phoenix

### **TUHSD HONOR BAND AND CHOIR**

Band and/or choir students from all District schools gathered on March 16 to audition for the TUHSD Honor Band and Choir. Depending on whether it was a vocal or instrumental audition, each student had to prepare a required solo sight read (something they had never seen or heard before), two vocal musical lines, and play two required instrumental scales and one instrumental chromatic scale. The TUHSD Honor Band and Choir Festival performance is on Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13. The choir will be conducted by Dr. Judy Duroscher, Scottsdale Community College Choral Director; the band will be conducted under the baton of Mrs. Renee Young-Esparza, Director of Instrumental Activities at Barry Goldwater High School.

#### **2012-2013 HONOR BAND**

##### **Piccolo**

Natalia Gomez (TUHS)

##### **Oboe**

Francisco Chaidez (TUHS)

##### **Bassoon**

Jeremy Garcia (SLHS)

##### **Bb Bass Clarinet**

Jason Foster (CCHS)

##### **Eb Baritone Saxophone**

Kimberly Garcia Wences (SLHS)

##### **F Horn**

Jesse Goodfellow (TUHS)  
Jonathan Molina (TUHS)

##### **Flutes**

Mariela Duarte (TUHS)  
Stephanie Ortiz-Narvaez (TUHS)  
Nathan Roman (LJCHS)  
Christian Valdez (TUHS)

##### **Trombones**

Aleecia Hernandez (SLHS)  
Jesus Salazar (SLHS)  
Alexandria Rodriguez (SLHS)

##### **Tubas**

Sasha Longoria (SLHS)  
Horacio Ortega (TUHS)  
Irwin Manoz (CCHS)

##### **Bb Soprano Clarinets**

Michael Ortega (SLHS)  
Gayle Hoefler (CCHS)  
Presley Banovich (TUHS)  
Cynthia Pena (SLHS)  
Iris Vargas (WHS)  
Jacqueline Soto (SLHS)

##### **Bb Trumpets**

Angelique Rocha (TUHS)  
Will Nance (CCHS)  
Antonio Hernandez (WHS)  
Ethan Bittle (WHS)  
Guillermo Ortega (CCHS)  
Monica Cordova (CCHS)

##### **Percussion**

Anthony Gutierrez (SLHS)  
Alex Garza (LJCHS)  
Isaac Nunes (SLHS)  
Brodie Duarte (TUHS)  
Jesus Cenciceros (CCHS)  
Steven Zavala (SLHS)  
Juan Rojas (CCHS)

##### **Eb Alto Saxophone**

Marcos Daniel Elenes (LJCHS)  
Oscar Barajas (SLHS)  
Omar Portillo (LJCHS)  
Karly Rodriguez (TUHS)  
Megan Mallers (TUHS)

## 2012-2013 HONOR CHOIR

### Soprano

Amber Casselman (TUHS)  
Meaghan Socaciu (TUHS)  
Eva Rincon (TUHS)  
Cheyenne Carpenter (CCHS)  
Chloe Stillons (TUHS)  
Yvonne Hernandez (SLHS)  
Darylle Pedrosa (TUHS)  
Esmeralda Pinder (TUHS)  
Nikki Cidro (TUHS)  
Carrisa Calloway (LJCHS)

### Tenor

Fabian Villa (SLHS)  
Adolfo Lozo (SLHS)  
Ricardo Saucedo (TUHS)  
Rec Ryan Garcia (TUHS)  
Leo Barrios (TUHS)  
Carlos Lopez (TUHS)  
Cameron Horton (CCHS)  
Isiah Emmerson (LJCHS)  
Hector Martinez (TUHS)

### Alto

Mikayla Dean (TUHS)  
Esmerelda De la Rosa (SLHS)  
Mairene Pita (TUHS)  
Ruby De La Rosa (SLHS)  
Genesis Guerrero (TUHS)  
Salina Lowery (LJCHS)  
Kelsey Smothers (TUHS)  
Brenna Russell (LJCHS)  
Lelia Gonzalez (TUHS)  
Andrea Calles Ramirez (CCHS)

### Bass

Andrew Zavala (TUHS)  
Kevin McCollum (CCHS)  
Frank Furtado (TUHS)  
Eric Lopez (CCHS)  
Kerry Okundaye (LJCHS)  
Peter Rubio (LJCHS)  
Zack Kidder (TUHS)  
Alex Tirado (LJCHS)  
Drew Bui (TUHS)

## GOVERNING BOARD PRESIDENT PUBLICLY PRAISES ADMINISTRATOR



*West Valley View, March 1, 2013*

“I wanted to update our community on what our Executive Director of Facilities, Mr. Richard Oros, has done with the Arizona School Facilities Board. Mr. Oros has gotten an extra \$154,375.00 in building renewal grants to help with major renovations to our schools. This brings the total that Mr. Oros has gotten from the Arizona School Facilities Board this school year to \$410,000.00. Along with the renewal grants, Mr. Oros is working with various vendors to honor their workmanship warranties. The roof at Copper Canyon is only 8 years old, but is already failing. Mr. Oros is working with all of those involved with building the school to insure that the District will get the roof repaired under warranty if it is at all possible. This summer, we are having a small group of minimum-security female inmates on our school sites to help with landscaping, cleaning, and painting. Since the students will be off for summer break, their safety will not be compromised. The amount of work that can be done at each site is more than we can accomplish with only TUHSD personnel. Our goal is to provide our students, teachers, and community with clean, well taken care-of schools that we will be proud to show off to visitors. While Mr. Oros is the leader of the "pack" at the District Office, we also know that our school plant managers and our Assistant Principals for Facility Maintenance take just as much time caring for our facilities. We are very lucky to have this amazing team at the Tolleson Union High School District!”

Terri L. Hackett, Tolleson Union High School District Governing Board President

## **ATHLETES OF EXCELLENCE**

Soccer: Several soccer players have been named to the All-Arizona and/or All-State boys and girls soccer teams. Selected by the *azcentral* sports high school staff, the All-Arizona team represents the best players regardless of division, while the All-State teams represent the best players in each division. The *azcentral* staff consulted coaches and used statistics and observations in making their selections.

### **All-State Girls Team**

Division I, Second Team – Shannon Lewis (WHS)

### **All-State Boys Team**

Division I, First Team – Mario Soto (TUHS)

Division I, Second Team – Mark Sanchez (WHS) and Jeremy Steiner (TUHS)

Division II, Second Team – Juan Hernandez (CCHS)

### **All-Arizona Boys Team**

Mario Soto (TUHS) – “Shut down opponents and dominated in the air. Most of Tolleson’s attacks started with Soto from the back line.”

Wrestling: Sierra Linda High School senior Felipe “Smiley” Nava won the wrestling state championship (49-0 record) in the 170 pound weight class. Felipe, along with Head Coach Daniel Figueroa and Assistant Coach Robert Tolliver, were recognized by Tim Madrid, Principal of Sierra Linda High School during the February 26 Governing Board meeting.



## **Copper Canyon High School – Alan Potts, Principal**

Dance Company members, representing CCHS at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona State High School Dance Festival on February 16 at Gilbert High School, participated in various dance workshops, including African, Belly, Popping, Modern, Ballet, and Latin/Swing. This is the second time CCHS students participated in this event, organized by the Arizona Dance Education Organization (AZDEO). In addition to the workshops, the dancers also performed a modern/contemporary choreography that was adjudicated by a panel of dance professionals. CCHS once again earned an overall score of Superior in Choreography, Performance, and Technique.



Seniors Salvador Avina and Olivia Mendez both earned 4<sup>th</sup> place at the recent DECA State Championship. Salvador and Olivia have earned the right to compete at the International Career and Development Conference (ICDC) on April 23 – 28 in Anaheim, California.

Future Freshmen Night was a huge success with over 300 incoming freshmen in attendance. More than 600 current CCHS students participated as ambassadors for the school.

The Copper Canyon Aztec Stunt Team, Pom Team, and Partner Stunts took second place in the National High School Spirit Competition what took place in mid-March in Anaheim, California. In addition, the CCHS Aztec Stunt Group, Hip Hop Pom, and Partner Stunts took first place.



### **La Joya Community High School – Brandi Haskins, Principal**

English teacher Lynette Turnbaugh was recently featured as a *West Valley View* Teacher of the Week. Nominator Brandi Haskins (Principal) stated, “Mrs. Turnbaugh is an ‘original Lobo,’ here from the opening of the school until today. She is known on campus by students as a teacher who really pushes students to achieve. She holds students to the highest of expectations and models for them her love of teaching.” When asked by the *WVV* what her favorite lesson is to teach and why, Mrs. Turnbaugh responded, “I love teaching literature and every text I present, I tell the students that it is my favorite book because at that moment, it really is. As a teacher, I focus on skills that will help students succeed as they enter college and life beyond high school. Literature provides a platform to discuss history, current events, technology and personal experiences, allowing students to analyze and think critically, promoting growth and maturity. I want them to love reading as much as I do.”

### **Sierra Linda High School – Tim Madrid, Principal**

Student Melvin Montenegro is Sierra Linda’s first ever Dorrance Scholarship semi-finalist. Melvin is in the top 5% of his class and is widely involved in on- and off-campus extracurricular activities.



Fourteen football players made their annual visit to Western Valley Elementary School on March 1 to participate in Dr. Seuss National Reading Day. The players read books to students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade and talked about the importance of reading and doing well in school.

Current eighth grade students were invited to attend Future Freshman Night to hear about Sierra Linda High School and to visit with club sponsors, coaches, administrators, and guidance advisors. The future Bulldogs also took a tour of the campus, visited with teachers in their classrooms, and saw science experiments in action.

Sierra Linda held its Spring Academic Awards Ceremony on March 4. This year, 269 students were present for the ceremony leaving standing room only in the gym. State Representative Lupe Chavira Contreras and District alumni Esteban Martinez and Ricardo Robles gave speeches to the students and their parents encouraging them to continue to Dream, Believe, Strive and Achieve.



Club Ebony, a diverse group of SLHS students who promote Black Culture and traditions, co-hosted a viewing of the award winning documentary *Soul Food Junkies* with the SLHS Culinary Arts students. The movie shared the history of soul food and the importance of eating healthy. Staff members Sonya Saenz, Diane Granillo, Larry Ross, and Principal Tim Madrid assisted with a round table discussion after.

### **Tolleson Union High School - Ernie Molina, Principal**

The Tolleson High School baseball team went 4-0 this year in the Universal Athletic Pre-Season baseball tournament. This marks the third year in a row the Wolverines have gone unbeaten.

The Tolleson Special Olympics basketball team finished first at the Palo Verde Tournament held on March 1.

On March 2, Tolleson MCJROTC competed in the annual Arizona State University Warrior Challenge, where they finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Tolleson faced very strong and aggressive competition from 18 different schools across the valley. Cadets participated in events that measured endurance, strength, teamwork and, most importantly, "leadership." Also on March 2, twenty-one cadets assisted in the Tolleson Invitational Track Meet by working in numerous areas of responsibility. The Cadets received several commendatory remarks from visiting coaches, AIA staff, and Tolleson Union faculty regarding their work ethic and professionalism.

Each week, Principal Ernie Molina recognizes "Wolverines of the Week," staff members who expect more from themselves than others expect of them. Honorees have included Lucy Lamont (Culinary Arts), Joseph Greer (Math), Ingrid Chrisman (English), Sony Louis (English), Silvia Chavarria (Math), Jose Gomar (Foreign Language), Alonzo Corral (Social Worker), Randy Harris (Social Studies), Amira Rodriguez (Science), and Pam Nelson (Science).

### **University High School - Courtney Stevens, Academic Dean**

Five seniors have made it to the semi-final round for the Dorrance Scholarship: Jeremy Sneesby, Bianca Ortiz, Natalia Gomez, Nikki Lopez, and Ramoncito Moreno.

### **Westview High School - Dr. Michele Wilson, Principal**

Forty first time student delegates, continuing students/counselors, and staff members recently attended Unitown, a diversity tolerance program that empowers students and staff to address negative and unhealthy elements in their lives and which promotes interaction among different racial and social groups. Student leaders included Omar Olivas, Sabre Collins, Clorissa Benitez, Gabe Zamora, Nick Martin, Javier Bustos, Natalie Lopez, Jasmine Greivous, Max Villa Vasquez, and Josie Kinard. Staff members were Susan Hennessy, Janel Vaughan, Dr. Scott Whalen, Sue Cochran, Monica Buensuceso, Christine Wiggins, Julian Jordan, Levi Burd, and Misty Wylie.

The WHS Performance Dance Company competed in the Releve' dance competition held in Gilbert on March 2. The Company received a white diamond (1st place) for their hip hop dance, Bangarang.

National Honor Society inducted 102 new members during a formal ceremony held on March 19.

Nathaniel Lyon, Dylan Hannah, Eduardo Corrales, and Carlos Peregrina have been selected to represent Westview at this summer's Boys State Leadership Conference in Flagstaff. NAU welcomes the opportunity to provide an outstanding learning environment to educate the future leaders of our country in the governmental process.

Meredith Snow auditioned and made it in the All State Honor Choir as an alternate. Over 800 students around the state auditioned for the Choir making the competition very tough. All State is April 18 – 20 at NAU. As an alternate, Meredith will attend and participate in the rehearsals.