



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, August 2, 2021

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**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR THE RAYTHEON LEADERS IN
EDUCATION AWARD**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Applications for the annual Raytheon Leaders in Education Award are now open. The program recognizes and rewards Pima County teachers in grades PreK-12 who are achieving outstanding classroom performance, demonstrating leadership in their schools and communities, and supporting their peers in a committed teacher workforce. Application materials can be found at TucsonValuesTeachers.org and are due by 5 p.m. via email on Monday, September 13, 2021.

Through a rigorous evaluation process, judges will narrow down applicants to twelve finalists and ultimately choose four awardees—one representing PreK, one for K-5, one for 6-8, and one for 9-12. Raytheon will award the three winners with \$2,500 cash each; an additional \$2,500 in matching gifts will be presented to each teacher's respective school. In addition, each finalist will receive \$500.

To be eligible for the Raytheon Leaders in Education award, teachers must:

- Spend the majority of a school day in direct instruction to students.
- Be currently certified to teach in Arizona.
- Have completed at least four full years as a classroom teacher.
- Teach grades PreK-12 in a Pima County school.
- Be a full-time teacher and plan to continue in active teaching status through 2022.
- Be the subject of a completed application with a submission deadline of September 13, 2021.

Tucson Values Teachers' Chief Executive Officer, Andy Heinemann, said, "The Raytheon Leaders in Education Award highlights and rewards some of the best educators in Pima County. Now, for the first time, PreK teachers can participate. Tucson Values Teachers values early childhood educators and we're excited that, together with Raytheon, we can formally recognize their contributions. Our teachers are doing amazing things in their classrooms with learners of all ages and the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award is just one way for us to spotlight these dedicated educators."

Finalists and winners of the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award will be honored at Tucson Values Teachers' Stand Up 4 Teachers event on Nov. 3 at the University of Arizona.

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***Tucson Values Teachers (TVT)** is a business and education partnership focused on helping schools and districts attract, retain and support the very best teachers for every PreK-12 classroom in Southern Arizona. The organization recognizes the critical role teachers play in student achievement and the vital influence they have on Tucson's future. It does this work by raising public awareness of the value of the teaching profession while providing programs that benefit teachers economically and professionally. For more information and to support TVT, visit tucsonvaluesteachers.org or call (520) 327-7619.*

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