



Great Teachers. Successful Students. Prosperous Community.

Media Advisory For Immediate Release

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Contact:
Andy Heinemann
Chief Executive Officer
520-327-7619

TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS PRESENTED THE JANUARY TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD TO MARICELA PARRA

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) presented the January Teacher Excellence Award to Maricela Parra, a preschool teacher at Santa Clara Head Start, part of Child-Parent Centers, Inc. Parra first became involved with Head Start 20 years ago as a volunteer. Originally from Mexico, Parra decided she wanted to pursue a career in education and worked with the center to continue her education; she began as a substitute and then later became a co-teacher. She has spent the past eight years as the lead teacher.

Parra was nominated by the Center Director of Santa Clara Head Start, Narda Olivarez. In her nominating statement, Olivarez wrote, "Maricela has gone above and beyond this year working with children with special needs, collaborating with the Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapist, and a Special Education Teacher from Sunnyside Unified School District.

"She has coordinated IEP meetings with parents and ensures that her work continues into the home by working with parents on strategies that will help children thrive not only in the classroom but also at home. Her work is made evident as children are already meeting goals set by their IEP. Families as well as co-workers have commended the implementation of her strategies in the classroom as well as her constant communication with the parents."

Tucson Values Teachers spotlights quality Southern Arizona teachers every month. Teachers are nominated through Tucson Values Teachers' website by colleagues, students, friends, and other community members. This month's Teacher Excellence Award winner received \$260 cash courtesy of Helios Education Foundation, a \$100 gift card to Jonathan's Educational Resources, flowers, a TVT tumbler, and an insulated bag from Tucson Federal Credit Union that contained small gift items including a \$20 gift card to Target.

More information about the Teacher Excellence Award, including the nomination form, can be found at www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org.

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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.*



Terresa Tausin (TVT, Director of Development), Maricela Parra, Andy Heinemann (TVT, CEO), and Narda Olivarez (Santa Clara Head Start, Center Director)

Vision:

*Great Teachers. Successful Students.
Prosperous Community.*

Mission:

*To inspire support of PreK-12 teachers in
Southern Arizona through community
collaborations that attract, retain, and
celebrate teacher excellence.*



**Tucson
Values
Teachers**

Tucson Values Teachers | TucsonValuesTeachers.org



Tucson Values Teachers | 1760 E River Rd. Ste. 280, Tucson, AZ 85718

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