



**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS PRESENTED THE JANUARY TEACHER
EXCELLENCE AWARD TO LYNN THACKER**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) presented the January Teacher Excellence Award to Lynn Thacker, a first-grade teacher at Mesa Verde Elementary School. Thacker has spent the last seven years of her 15-year teaching career in Amphitheater Public Schools. Andy Heinemann, CEO of Tucson Values Teachers, surprised Thacker with the award this morning in her classroom.

Leslie Young, whose daughter is currently in Thacker's class, nominated Thacker for the award. In her nominating statement, Young said, "Lynn Thacker has had my two older kids and now has my last. She is the most kind, caring, loving, sweet, attentive teacher you could have for your kids. She truly loves all the kids in her class and gives each of them the attention they need. She always has a positive attitude and smile on her face and the kids feel her calm energy."

At Mesa Verde Elementary School, Thacker is the campus coordinator of Project ACHIEVE, one of Amphitheater's 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This after-school program provides struggling students the tools they need to succeed academically and socially. Thacker was also recently notified that she earned her National Board Certification.

Young said, "She is truly a gem and Mesa Verde is so lucky and honored to have her."

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. Winners of the Teacher Excellence Award receive \$250 cash courtesy of Helios Education Foundation, a \$100 gift certificate to Jonathan's Educational Resources, and flowers.

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.