



*Great Teachers. Successful Students. Prosperous Community.*

Press Release  
For Immediate Release

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**TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS HONORED FIVE SOUTHERN ARIZONA EDUCATORS WITH THE TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) surprised five Southern Arizona educators this week with the Teacher Excellence Award as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. All winning teachers were nominated by students who submitted a video explaining why their teacher deserved to be recognized with the award. More information on the winning teachers, along with the student nominating videos, can be found [here](#).

Teachers who received the Teacher Excellence Award this week include:

- **Stacie Trebes:** 7th grade science teacher at Wrightson Ridge K-8 School in Sahuarita Unified School District. She was nominated by Emily Marchbanks, Anabelle Mendoza, Karsen Montgomery, Jolene Maxson, Isabel Morehead, and Natalie Felix.
- **Sarah Hitchings:** 2nd grade teacher at Hendricks Elementary School in Flowing Wells Unified School District. She was nominated by her entire class.
- **Maura Baker:** Gifted specialist/IDS teacher at Manzanita Elementary School in Catalina Foothills School District. She was nominated by her 3rd grade class and a 5th grade student, Malia Patel.
- **Sarah Smith:** 9th and 10th grade English teacher at Buena High School in Sierra Vista Unified School District. She was nominated by Vijay Carrier.
- **Delia Sotelo:** 4th grade dual language teacher at Mission View Elementary School in Tucson Unified School District. She was nominated by Melanie Soto, Karime Gaspar, Rahel Perez, Ivan Ramos, and Jeffrey Fotakis.

Winning teachers received a \$100 gift certificate to Jonathan's Educational Resources, \$250 cash courtesy of Helios Education Foundation, flowers, a gift basket and one-year membership from Treasures 4 Teachers of Tucson, and tickets to an FC Tucson game.

More information about the Teacher Excellence Award can be found at [www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://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](http://tucsonvaluesteachers.org) or call (520) 203-8538.*

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Stacie Trebes



Sarah Hitchings



Maura Baker

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Sarah Smith

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Delia Sotelo

**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 | [TucsonValuesTeachers.org](http://TucsonValuesTeachers.org)



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