



Great Teachers. Successful Students. Prosperous Community.

Media Advisory For Immediate Release

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TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS PRESENTED THE SEPTEMBER TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARD TO NATASHIA NOVAK

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) presented the September Teacher Excellence Award to Natasha Novak, a preschool special education teacher at Ocotillo Early Learning Center in Sunnyside Unified School District. In her position, Novak serves as both an itinerant Head Start teacher and a Child Find evaluator. Novak has been teaching for the past eight years. Prior to her role at Ocotillo, Novak served as the special education teacher at Play and Learn Preschool Center.

Novak was nominated by her colleague Jennifer Arenas-Cardenas. In the nominating statement, Arenas-Cardenas wrote, "Natasha Novak embodies excellence by guiding aspiring educators as a mentor and fostering an inclusive classroom for preschool children with special needs, rooted in evidence-based practices. Her unwavering support for general education teachers in aiding children with disabilities underscores her commitment to collaboration. She offers top-tier professional development that elevates her colleagues' inclusionary practices."

Arenas-Cardenas went on to write, "Natasha's dedication extends to families during preschool to kindergarten transitions, exemplifying a holistic and nurturing approach to education. In these multifaceted roles, Natasha stands out as a beacon of excellence in teaching, transforming lives and fostering a brighter future."

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 \$250 cash courtesy of Helios Education Foundation, a \$100 gift card to Jonathan's Educational Resources, flowers, and a TVT tumbler.

More information about the Teacher Excellence Award 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.*



Superintendent Jose Gastelum, Natasha Novak, and Andy Heinemann

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



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