



*Great Teachers. Successful Students. Prosperous Community.*

Press Release  
For Immediate Release

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022

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

**RAYTHEON LEADERS IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS  
ANNOUNCED**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers and Raytheon Missiles & Defense today announced the winners of the seventh annual Raytheon Leaders in Education Award. Four local teachers were selected as the recipients and will be honored at Tucson Values Teachers' [Stand Up 4 Teachers](#) ceremony, scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022.

The Raytheon Leaders in Education Award 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.

Through a rigorous evaluation process, judges selected four awardees from among 12 finalists. Raytheon will award the four winners separate \$2,500 gifts, plus an additional \$2,500 in matching gifts to each of the teacher's respective schools, for a total of \$20,000. The award recipients will meet with local business and political leaders over the next year to share success stories and find common ground in advocating for advancements in education. The eight finalists who were not selected as the winners will receive \$500 each.

"Stand Up 4 Teachers is a celebration of education champions, honoring the amazing work that teachers in Pima County are doing for their students," said Andy Heinemann, Chief Executive Officer of Tucson Values Teachers. "All our teacher winners have shown a compassion and commitment that is not only positively impacting those in their classrooms, but that is moving the profession forward in our community. They are an inspiration to their colleagues, students, and administrators and are more than deserving of the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award."

"Raytheon has a distinguished history of supporting local educators and shining a light on the innovative and professional work that these teachers do inside and outside of the classroom. We recognize the critical role that Raytheon has played, and continues to play, for our education community here in Southern Arizona. It is our pleasure to also honor Raytheon at Stand Up 4 Teachers on Nov. 9 with the 2022 Spirit of Education Award."

Stand Up 4 Teachers, presented by Tucson Electric Power, will be held at University of Arizona Grand Ballroom on Nov. 9. Community members can purchase individual tickets for \$75 [online](#). Stand Up 4 Teachers starts at 5:30pm for cocktails and networking; the program will begin promptly at 6:30pm.

**2022 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award Winners:**

- **Jessica Caramella:** PreK, Emily Meschter Early Learning Center, Flowing Wells Unified School District

**Jessica Caramella** is a preschool teacher at Emily Meschter Early Learning Center in the Flowing Wells Unified School District. She has taught early childhood education for the past nine years and was named Teacher of the Year

on her campus for the 2017-2018 school year. Caramella participates in the STEMAZing Teacher Leader Program, developing STEM curriculum for the entire district. Under Caramella's guidance, her preschoolers have submitted winning projects to SARSEF's science and engineering fairs. In 2021, Caramella was honored as an Educator Advocate of Science and Engineering from SARSEF.

- **Jaime Camero:** Grade 6, Science, Walter Douglas Elementary School, Flowing Wells Unified School District

**Jaime Camero**, a sixth-grade science teacher, has taught for nearly two decades, the past nine years at Walter Douglas Elementary School in the Flowing Wells Unified School District. Camero is National Board Certified and serves as the Science Fair and STEM Night Coordinator and as an Instructional Coach at Douglas Elementary, in addition to being a STEMAZing teacher for the district. She was voted by her colleagues to be the Douglas Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2022. Among numerous other awards, Camero was also recognized earlier this year as the SARSEF Champion Teacher of the Year and most recently was a 2022 Top Ten Teacher of the Year Semifinalist for the Arizona Education Foundation. Camero is a founding member of the Tucson Regional Educators Collaborative (TREC) Teacher Leaders and currently serves as a TREC Mentor Community of Practice. She was named Arizona's first National STEM Scholar and is a current member of the Arizona K12 Center Teacher Solutions Team.

- **Mollie Grove:** Grades 7 and 8, Science, Alice Vail Middle School, Tucson Unified School District

**Mollie Grove** has taught science for the past 15 years at Alice Vail Middle School in the Tucson Unified School District. She earned a Master of Education in Instructional Technology from Arizona State University and is National Board Certified. In addition to serving as the head of the Science Department, Grove is the Teacher Technology Liaison, helping colleagues effectively integrate technology into their lessons. She is the MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) Club advisor and led the group to the national competition last year. Grove recently launched a new STEM elective on campus where students can earn high school credit. In 2020, she was named the Alice Vail Middle School Teacher of the Year.

- **Ariana Brown:** Grades 9-12, Dance, Flowing Wells High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District

**Ariana Brown** is in her eighth year of teaching dance at Flowing Wells High School in Flowing Wells Unified School District. She teaches students in grades nine through 12 in all levels and types of dance and is the director of Momentum Dance Company, a dance team at Flowing Wells that performs at pep rallies on campus as well as performances at schools throughout Tucson. Brown facilitates two dance teams at the high school to lead youth dance classes for children ages three to 14, as well as offering adult dance classes such as the teacher dance group, Ruckus. She is highly involved with campus activities, assisting with Student Council, coaching pom line, and advising Link Crew, a mentorship program to support high school freshmen.

## 2022 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award Finalists:

### PreK

- **Jessica Jankowski-Gallo:** PreK, Emily Meschter Early Learning Center, Flowing Wells Unified School District
- **Aracely Pacheco:** PreK, Oyama Elementary School, Tucson Unified School District

### Grades K-5

- **Jessica Wendt:** Grade 4, Hendricks Elementary School, Flowing Wells Unified School District
- **Robyn Yewell:** Grade 5, Harelson Elementary School, Amphitheater Public Schools

### Grades 6-8

- **Todd Johnson:** Grade 7, Language Arts, Marana Middle School, Marana Unified School District
- **Samantha Rose:** Grades 6 and 8, Mathematics, Hollinger K-8, Tucson Unified School District

### Grades 9-12

- **Marian Johnson:** Grades 9-12, Resource Mathematics, Amphitheater High School, Amphitheater Public Schools
- **Usha Madhyanam:** Grades 9-12, Mathematics, Star Academic High School, Sunnyside Unified School District

###

**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) 327-7619.



Raytheon Leaders in Education Award Winners and Finalists

**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)



Tucson Values Teachers | 3497 N Campbell Ave, Ste. 703, Tucson, AZ 85719

[Unsubscribe aheinemann@tucsonvaluesteachers.org](mailto:unsubscribe_aheinemann@tucsonvaluesteachers.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [bykprevenas@tucsonvaluesteachers.org](mailto:bykprevenas@tucsonvaluesteachers.org)