



Press Release  
For Immediate Release

Friday, May 6, 2022

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

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) surprised five local educators this week with the Teacher Excellence Award. As a special edition of the award for Teacher Appreciation Week, Tucson Values Teachers asked students to submit video nominations. More information on the winning teachers and the student-submitted video nominations can be found [here](#).

Teachers who received the Teacher Excellence Award this week include:

- **Tiffany Wiley:** 1st and 2nd grade teacher at Manzanita Elementary School in Catalina Foothills School District. She was nominated by her entire class.
- **Karla Bernal:** Kindergarten teacher at Esperanza Elementary School in Sunnyside Unified School District. She was nominated by her entire class.
- **Ralph Chiariello:** 7th grade math teacher at Anza Trail K-8 School in Sahuarita Unified School District. He was nominated by many of his students.
- **Kaitlyn Capas:** 2nd grade teacher at Hendricks Elementary School in Flowing Wells Unified School District. She was nominated by Natalie Bartzen
- **Shelley Wermuth:** 7th grade science teacher at Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8 in Marana Unified School District. She was nominated by Emily West.

Winning teachers received flowers, \$250 cash courtesy of [Helios Education Foundation](#), a \$100 gift card to their choice of either Amazon or Jonathan's Educational Resources, and special gifts from Ben's Bells.

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) 327-7619.*

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**Tiffany Wiley**  
Manzanita Elementary School, Catalina Foothills School District

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**Karla Bernal**  
Esperanza Elementary School, Sunnyside Unified School District

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**Ralph Chiariello**  
Anza Trail K-8 School, Sahuarita Unified School District

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**Kaitlyn Capas**  
Hendricks Elementary School, Flowing Wells School District

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**Shelley Wermuth**  
Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8, Marana Unified School District