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## Press Release For Immediate Release

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

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### **TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS HONORS SIX EDUCATORS WITH TEACHER EXCELLENCE AWARDS DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

TUCSON, AZ — In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, Tucson Values Teachers (TVT), in partnership with Helios Education Foundation, is proud to announce the recipients of Teacher Excellence Awards. Six exceptional Southern Arizona educators have been selected for their outstanding commitment to students.

Each awardee was nominated by students in videos which highlighted their dedication, passion, and impact on education in our region. The recipients received a certificate, cash award of \$250, a \$100 gift card for classroom supplies, and a gift package from TVT.

The Teacher Excellence Award winners are:

- Asminda Hernandez, Sahuarita Early Childhood Center, Sahuarita USD
- April Pollow, Manzanita Elementary, Catalina Foothills USD
- Shireen Behzadi, Catalina High School, Catalina Foothills USD
- Stephanie Caffrey, Marana High School, Marana USD
- Irene Gilua, Indian Oasis Intermediate School, Baboquivari USD
- Sonia Miller, Pistor Middle School, Tucson USD

"These teachers represent the best of our community's educators," said Teresa Hill, Chief Executive Officer of Tucson Values Teachers. "They go above and beyond to support their students and schools every single day. We're proud to recognize their excellence and thank them for their contributions to the future of Southern Arizona."

The Teacher Excellence Awards are part of TVT’s year-round efforts to support and elevate the teaching profession. During Teacher Appreciation Week and throughout the year, TVT works with partners across the region to ensure educators feel valued and empowered to continue their essential work.

For more information about the Teacher Excellence Awards and Tucson Values Teachers, please visit [tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://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.



Administrators join Asminda Hernandez and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill



Administrators join April Pollow and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill



Administrators join Shireen Behzadi and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill



Principal Caitlyn Kauffman joins Stephanie Caffrey and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill



Administrators join Irene Gilua and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill



Administrators and Colleagues join Sonia Miller and TVT CEO, Teresa Hill

**Vision:**

*Great Teachers. Successful Students.  
Prosperous Community.*

**Mission:**

*To elevate the teaching profession in  
Southern Arizona by empowering and  
celebrating PreK-12 teacher excellence  
through community engagement and  
investment.*



**Tucson  
Values  
Teachers**

Tucson Values Teachers | [TucsonValuesTeachers.org](https://TucsonValuesTeachers.org)



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