



# NEWSLETTER

NOMINATE A STUDENT FOR A GOOD THINGS IN EDUCATION AWARD AT:  
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Good Things in Education



AMANDA COX IS DOING GREAT THINGS AT CRANE MIDDLE SCHOOL



Sponsored by




Arizona Department of Education  
 Nita M Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers  
 (21st CCLC), Title IV, Part B

**Welcome to 21st CCLC!**



In February, Yuma was visited by Emma Chavez from Arizona Department of Education. Emma oversees all of the **twenty-eight** 21st CCLC programs in the county. We were able to visit the before and after school classes offered by Dorothy Hall Elementary School to watch students create, learn, and move their bodies.

The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) initiative provides the only federally funded source dedicated exclusively to out-of-school-time programs. In Arizona, 21st CCLC programs build and sustain comprehensive out-of-school-time programs that provide high-quality academic enrichment opportunities for students attending high-poverty, low-performing schools. These programs meaningfully engage adult family members in helping their children succeed academically.

## 18 TRAINERS PREPARED TO LEAD SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING



## American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

On February 5, the County Superintendent's office facilitated a virtual Train the Trainers event for the More than Sad program through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Eighteen community members and education personnel participated and are now certified to provide this training locally.

More than Sad is an Arizona sanctioned program to fulfill the legal requirements under the Mitch Warnock Act. If you are interested in scheduling an in-person training, please contact Eliana Osborn for details.



### Important Dates

- March 8 -- Rural Education Professional Development Day
- April 25 -- Teacher of the Year and Hall of Fame Banquet
- May 9 -- Librarians and Career Literacy Standards Training
- August 17 -- Mental Health Morning for Educators

## LEGISLATIVE PROCESS TRAINING

Executive Director of the Arizona Association of Counties, Jen Marsden, visited Yuma on February 2. She was able to provide an overview of the Arizona legislative process and the many steps a bill goes through to become law. Superintendents and board members from across the county attended the session. They also learned how to track and comment on bills while they are being debated and voted on in the state houses.



## SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING EXPO FIELDS ENTRIES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTY

Generous community sponsors made possible 24 monetary awards to students on February 15. To be determined a county winner, students first had to compete in their school site science fair. Then projects were entered in the county event. Finalists in each category, at each grade level, had an opportunity to be interviewed about their experiments.



One overall winner was awarded at each grade band, with an additional overall winner of the entire fair. The elementary Overall Winner was Alan Bojorquez and Jericho Rodriguez. Middle School went to Adriel Magana Lopez and Brandon Miranda Lopez. The Best in High School winner was Hannah Tapia. The Best of Expo winner was River Trent with a project titled "Light Reactive Window Shades."

Yuma County Science and Engineering Expo would not be possible without the businesses and individuals who donate to support student excellence. This year's lead sponsor was JV Farms. Other sponsors included: Geotechnical Testing Services, Tuman and Ellen Allen, Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, the Greater Yuma Economic Development Corporation, John Boelts, Marcos Moore, Equinox Gold, Yuma International Airport, and YRMC.

## CAN YOU SPELL TEMPERAMENTAL?

February 13 was the annual Yuma County Spelling Bee. This year 55 participants in grades three through eight competed through 21 rounds of words. Finalists Natalie Pinkerton from Dorothy Hall and Catherine McCoy from Castle Dome (both in the Crane Elementary District) battled for dominance through many rounds and near championship words.

Finally fifth grader Natalie correctly spelled two words in a row, and was named champion. She will travel to Phoenix for the state spelling bee in March.

Thanks to generous sponsors Arizona Western College, Gila Ridge Dental, and Yuma International Airport, all students received a commemorative bottle of honey from Nikki's Chickies.



First place winner Natalie Pinkerton won a plaque and \$150 while second place finisher Catherine McCoy received a plaque and \$100.

We're so grateful to all who participated holding school bees first. Nancy Blitz, retired professor and secretary of the Education Foundation of Yuma County served as the pronouncer, with Katie Thorson, Jim Larson, and Eliana Osborn judging.

**SAVE** **JUNE 2024**  
**THE DATE**



**2024 Teachers Institute  
and Leading Change**

**growing AND achieving**  
TOGETHER

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US**

**June 5th-7th, 2024**

**Renaissance Phoenix  
Glendale Hotel & Spa**

9495 W Entertainment Blvd, Glendale, AZ 85305

Registration and more  
information available at  
<https://www.azed.gov/tilconference>

## COUNTY MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION

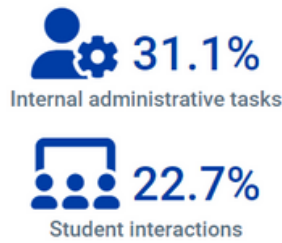
Just six teams participated in the regional MathCounts competition held February 9 at Arizona Western College. Southwest Junior High School took first place as a team, with Gowan Science Academy coming in second and Centennial Middle School third. The first place individual finishers were both from Gowan Science Academy: Jay Chandra, sixth grade, in first place and Jon Isaac Jordan, eighth grade, in second.

We'd love to have more schools participate in next year's competition. High school volunteers are available to help staff members with coaching, and financial help with registration fees is available. Please reach out to Eliana Osborn for more information.



Source: National Center for Education Statistics. Public School Principal data set, 2020-2021

AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF TIME PER SCHOOL YEAR SPENT ON VARIOUS SCHOOL-RELATED TASKS, BY STATE: 2020-21



**NATIONAL RURAL STEM LEARNING SUMMIT**

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER  
Never stop wondering. Never stop imagining.

RAIN  
RURAL INNOVATION NETWORK

SCITECH INSTITUTE

**JUNE 4 - 7 2024**

**TUCSON, AZ**  
THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA

Collective Impact | Rural Empowerment | Successful Rural STEM Programs

Join us in Tucson in June to focus on STEM learning for smaller communities.

### DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR CELEBRATION

February 15 the Gadsden Elementary School District celebrated their nominees for Teacher of the Year, instead of waiting for the county-wide event.



The banquet was held at Southwest Junior High School to celebrate all 29 nominees in the First Year Teacher, Primary Teacher, Intermediate Teacher, Special Area Teacher and Teacher of the Year categories.

**YUMA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**  
**MARCH WRITING CONTEST**

Students should write a haiku

What's that?

**HAKU**

A type of Japanese poetry, often about nature, with a specific number of syllables in each line.

5  
7  
5

- Each student may submit ONE haiku
- All grades are eligible to participate.
- Entries must be received by email or in office by March 27, 2024.
- 10 to 20 haikus will win a prize and publication in a special collection.

Tell me the details

Questions? Contact [Eliana.Osborn@azed.gov](mailto:Eliana.Osborn@azed.gov) Entries accepted at 210 S. 1st Ave.