




THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



Advocates
For Education
Awards

Wednesday April 16, 2025

8:00AM - 10:00AM

Helios Education Foundation Campus





Chair's Message

Ms. Suzie Moreno

Chair, Board of Directors
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Good morning,

On behalf of the Pete C. Garcia, Victoria Foundation, it is indeed an honor to welcome you to our annual Advocates for Education (AFE) Awards Reception, honoring our leaders representing various educational institutions and organizations. These hardworking and creative award recipients have demonstrated sustained leadership in assisting our students and supporting academic programs that have directly impacted their educational journey. As each recipient is introduced, you will hear a compelling story about their journey and will discover why they are being honored. Our educational systems develop a foundational perspective that enhances the abilities of each student to learn and thrive. A solid educational foundation kindles the flame of curiosity and helps awaken the abilities to question, and to reason. Our advocates have made a life-time commitment to prepare our Arizona students to journey into the world equipped to succeed.

As we celebrate the work of these incredible educational leaders and their many accomplishments, we have to stop and ponder the future of education in Arizona and beyond. Until we, as a society, truly invest in our education systems, organizations like the Pete C. Garcia, Victoria Foundation will work to provide funding support for our youth to learn and thrive.

Our wish is to provide education for all, enabling our youth to learn and apply their knowledge to our challenging work environments. A special thanks to our AFE sponsors and our Foundation's Board of Directors for their sustained leadership.

Respectfully,

Suzie Moreno
Board Chair



President's Message

Dr. Loui Olivas

President
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Dear Friends:

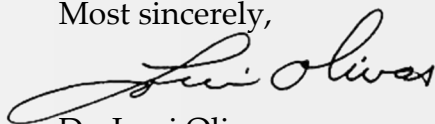
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation is proud to celebrate our Advocates for Education (AFE) Awards, 15th Anniversary (Quinceañera). Every April, we gather to recognize and honor “difference makers” working tirelessly within the education community and affiliated organizations, who thrive to improve the academic talents of our students. Our Founding President, Pete C. Garcia, clearly understood that when you have individuals who know how to push agendas and support educational programs that benefit our community, our students flourish. Each of this year’s award recipients exemplify through their arduous work and accomplishments, why we continue with our Advocates for Education Awards Reception.

Our foundation believes in the importance of providing our students with educational support systems that will yield high returns on our scholarship investments, benefiting all communities. Our major goal is empowering our students through their educational attainments, thereby positioning these students to flourish.

Partnering with educational institutions and our community sponsors, we have provided 1,614 dollar-for dollar scholarship matches that enhances our students’ ability to complete their college degree. To-date, thanks to our sponsors and partners, we have invested \$1.6 million dollars in our scholarship program. This significant investment propels our students’ academic futures and encourages our board to continue our fundraising efforts.

Thank you for being with us today to recognize, honor and support our 2025 Advocates for Education Award recipients.

Most sincerely,



Dr. Loui Olivas



Board of Directors

Suzie Moreno

Chair, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation,
Manager, National Sales, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona

Raul Aguirre

President
REA Media Group

Lourdes Sierra

Financial Officer
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation

Dr. Steven R. Gonzales

Chancellor
Maricopa Community Colleges.

Dr. Loui Olivas

President
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation
Professor Emeritus
Arizona State University

Chuck Lotzar

Board Secretary
&
Attorney at Law
Lotzar Law Firm

Charlene T. Vasquez

Chief of Staff
Arizona Theatre Company



Staff

Jay Olivas

Multimedia

Program Agenda

Welcome

Ms. Suzie Moreno
Manager, National Sales
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Chair, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Paul Luna
President
Helios Education
Foundation

Anna Maria Chavez
President
Arizona Community
Foundation

Dr. Loui Olivas
President
The Pete C. Victoria
Foundation

Awards Presentations

Presented by

Excellence in Youth Education Award

Stephanie Acosta
Principal,
Ed & Verma Pastor Elementary School
Roosevelt School District

Lourdes Sierra
Treasurer
The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation
Board of Directors

Sustained Promoter / Benefactor of Education Award

Debra Gomez
Former President & Founding Board Member,
Arizona Association of Latino Administrators
& Superintendents (AZALAS)

Steven R. Gonzales
Chancellor
Maricopa Community Colleges
Director, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Academic Achievement / Advancement Award

Dr. Gabriel Trujillo
Superintendent
Tucson Unified School District

Raul Aguirre
President
REA Media Group
Director, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Excellence in Education Award

Dr. José Leyba
Chief Search Officer,
JG Consulting

Chuck Lotzar
Lotzar Law firm, P.C.
Secretary, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Educational Diversity Award

Sybil Francis
Chair & President,
Center for Future of Arizona

Charlene T. Vasquez
Chief of Staff
Arizona Theatre Company
Director, The Pete C. Garcia Victoria
Foundation Board of Directors

Closing Remarks

Dr. Loui Olivas

Excellence In Youth Education Award

Presented to

Stephanie Acosta

Principal,
Ed & Verma Pastor Elementary School
Roosevelt School District



Stephanie Acosta, a proud Arizona native and Arizona State University alumna, has dedicated her life to education and community empowerment. Growing up in the heart of South Phoenix, she has a deep-rooted understanding and passion for serving her community.

With 30 years of experience in public education, Stephanie began her career as a primary grades teacher and transitioned into school administration 22 years ago. She continues to lead as a principal at Ed & Verma Pastor Elementary School in the Roosevelt School District, where her leadership has been instrumental in fostering academic growth and inclusive, supportive school environments.

Beyond her impact in education, Stephanie is committed to uplifting communities through her service on the Executive Board of Chicanos Por La Causa (CPLC), a nationally recognized

community development organization. In this role, she contributes to CPLC's mission of driving positive change in underserved communities by advocating for programs in housing, health care, education, and economic advancement.

Stephanie's unwavering commitment to students, families, and community empowerment reflects her belief that access to quality education and resources transforms lives and strengthens communities. Her leadership exemplifies service, integrity, and a passion for creating opportunities for future generations.

Stephanie resides in Chandler, AZ and is married with three children and one grandchild.



Sustained Promoter / Benefactor of Education Award

Presented to

Debra Gomez

Former President & Founding Board Member,
Arizona Association of Latino Administrators
& Superintendents (AZALAS)



Debra Gomez is a native Phoenician, and began her teaching career in 1978 after graduating from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education with a Specialization in Bilingual/Multicultural Education. As a teacher, she was involved in writing grants for Title VII and training paraprofessionals. She earned a Master's Degree in Educational Administration & Supervision in 1984. Debra was a Bilingual Curriculum Specialist and developed and aligned curriculum in Spanish for bilingual classrooms. She has held several administrative positions including Assistant Principal, Principal, Director of Curriculum, Assistant Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer, Interim Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer.

In 2004, she was appointed the Interim Superintendent of the Tempe Elementary School District. During that time, Debra was one of only three Latinas serving as Superintendent. She also served as the Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning for six years in Tempe and for five years in the Phoenix Elementary School District. In addition, she was also the first Latina Principal in the Phoenix Elementary School District at the well-known Lowell School located in the heart of the Barrio. Both her own father and father-in-law were graduates of Lowell School. Thereafter, other Latinas followed her lead as Lowell Principals.

Furthermore, she served as the Executive Director of the Centers of Educational Innovation with University Public Schools affiliated with Arizona State University. They are currently known as the ASU Prep Academies; one school is in downtown Phoenix and the other at ASU's Polytechnical Campus in the east valley. Debra was part of the team of five who wrote the initial charter and operated the first two schools.

Debra is well-known as a trailblazer for other Latina administrators. She was a Charter Member and served as President for three years of the Arizona Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents (AZALAS). She not only served as President for three terms, but is also one of the longest serving Board members and now serves as a Board Member Emeritus. Her service was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award. She also served as a board member for the National Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) and helped grow the organization in its early days. Today, ALAS has over 21 affiliates nationwide with Arizona ALAS and California CALSA having been two of the first organizations serving Latino Administrators and Superintendents in the country. Both were established in 1988.

She currently is a retired educational administrator who most recently was working as a consultant providing executive coaching to school administrators. She coached first year Superintendents for eight years through an agreement with the Arizona Department of Education, Grand Canyon University and the Arizona Administrators Association. In addition, she coached new Superintendents in a wide array of districts including Scottsdale Unified, Laveen Elementary, Tolleson Union, Peach Springs and Sacaton. Debra has also facilitated the development of strategic plans for three districts, working with the Superintendents and the Governing Boards.

Today, she is the primary caregiver to her 100-year-old father, enjoys her grandchildren and is a member of the St. Benedict's Parish St. Vincent de Paul Council.

Academic Achievement / Advancement Award

Presented to

Dr. Gabriel Trujillo

Superintendent
Tucson Unified School District



Dr. Gabriel Trujillo is the proud Superintendent of the Tucson Unified School District. Appointed in April 2017, he is currently in his 8th year of service to the Tucson Unified community. As the leader of southern Arizona's largest school system and the state's 3rd largest public school district, Dr. Trujillo serves 40,000 students and families, oversees the support needs of 89 schools and programs, and proudly serves almost 8000 employees. Home to one of Arizona's most culturally, ethnically, and academically diverse student populations, under his leadership the district's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity for every student resulted in the district's full and unconditional release from court supervision in its long-standing Desegregation Order, a landmark achievement in the district's history. A native Arizonan and graduate of the Peoria Unified School District, Dr. Trujillo is a proud product of Arizona public schools and has been serving children and young people as a public-school educator for 25 years as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, as a Human Resources Director and Assistant Superintendent prior to his appointment as Superintendent. During his tenure, Tucson Unified schools have experienced a dramatic shift in academic improvement going from 30% to almost 70% of all district schools carrying an A or B rating, earning the district a "B" rating for the first time in its history by the Arizona Department of Education. In November 2023, Dr. Trujillo's vision for safe, inclusive, equitable, and modernized learning spaces and facilities for all students was rewarded by voters with a successful \$480 million bond package, the largest in the district's history. An unwavering advocate and champion for music education and student access to the fine, performance, and visual arts, Dr. Trujillo's vision culminated in an unprecedented expansion of fine arts and music education programs throughout the district with a multi-million dollar investment

in the restoration of music teaching positions throughout the district, comprehensive support for the district's award winning Mariachi programs, a comprehensive new instrument purchase and repair initiative, and the purchase of new band and fine arts program uniforms throughout the district. With the same passion and spirit for student access to Career and Technical Education programs, students enrolled in CTE courses throughout the district have almost doubled to 7,000 students in the last eight years, culminating in the opening of innovative new programs and facilities across the district like the Dental Assistant and Diesel Engine Repair programs at Santa Rita High School and the opening of the district's first new CTE focused high school Innovation Tech. During his time as the Tucson Unified School District's Superintendent, Dr. Trujillo has been recognized by the Arizona Music Education Association as its Superintendent of the Year in 2018 and the Arizona Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents Superintendent of the Year in 2022. He serves as a board member for the Arizona Business Education Coalition, the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Heart Association, and for Tucson Values Teachers. Dr. Trujillo is the past President and current Executive Board member of the Arizona Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents (AZALAS) and serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS). A proud graduate of Arizona State University where he earned his master's and doctoral degrees, Dr. Trujillo looks forward to continuing to serve the Tucson Unified community and maintaining his commitment to academic success, access, and opportunity for every child, and a vision of excellence in customer service and family and community engagement at every school, every day.

Excellence In Education Award

Presented to

Dr. José Leyba

Chief Search Officer
JG Consulting



Dr. José Leyba is a native Arizonan and received his Bachelor of Arts and advanced degrees (M.Ed. & Ed.D.) at Arizona State University (ASU). He began his teaching career at the junior high level where he taught English, Social Studies, remedial Math, and Bilingual classes.

In addition to K-12 teaching experience, Dr. Leyba has held positions as Principal, Director, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and Superintendent of the Isaac School District (1995-2000) in Phoenix, Arizona. During his tenure as superintendent of schools, he served as Co-Chair of the seventy Arizona low wealth, plaintiff school districts that filed the Roosevelt vs. Bishop school finance lawsuit. His leadership and advocacy were instrumental in the success of the case and the legislation that resulted in changing the inequitable Arizona system of school finance. As Superintendent he was appointed Co-Principal Investigator along with the ASU Dean of the College of Education, and the Vice Chancellor of the Maricopa Community Colleges to lead and monitor the Urban Systemic Initiative, a \$15,000,000 National Science Foundation Grant. The grant served fourteen Phoenix school districts and over 150,000 students.

After a successful tenure in K-12, Dr. Leyba transitioned to higher education where he served as Associate Faculty at Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University. In 2001, Dr. Leyba joined the Maricopa Community College District (MCCD) where he was a member of the Chancellor's Executive Council (CEC) and worked in a variety of executive positions including Associate Vice Chancellor and Acting Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Provost, and Vice President. MCCD is one of the largest community college systems in the country with ten colleges and two workforce development centers.

In 2005, Dr. Leyba was named Interim President of Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC), one of nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District. As President he oversaw a \$159,000,000 Bond construction program, successful retained a \$5,000,000 Hispanic Serving Institutions Title V Grant, and led the college through the initial stages of the accreditation process. For family reasons he returned to Arizona, where he returned to the position of Vice President for Corporate Development at the Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation. In 2008 he retired from MCCD to pursue his passion of assisting those in the education community with most need. In addition to his work as a speaker and Executive Consultant in higher education/K-12, he has also served as an Executive Leadership Coach for "Turnaround" School Principals/

Superintendents at Arizona State University, and Executive Coach for New Superintendents with Grand Canyon University/Arizona Department of Education/Arizona Administrators Association, and mentor for prospective community college presidents.

Dr. Leyba also served as Acting Provost/Executive Vice Chancellor for Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. He had previously served as Interim Vice President of Instruction at Pima Community Colleges West Campus in 2009 and was thoroughly familiar with PCC. After, completing this assignment he returned to the Phoenix area to continue his Executive Coaching assignments, where he became the Program Director for the (ALAS) Association of Latino Administrators & Superintendents, Superintendents Leadership Academy (SLA). The SLA is the premier preparation program for Latinx Superintendents in the country. He has continued his advocacy role as an Executive Search and Retreat Consultant for the Association of Community College Trustees. Additionally, he currently is the Chief Search Officer for JG Consulting, one of only two Latino owned Superintendent search firms in the country. Dr. Leyba is passionate about his continued role as Distinguished Faculty and Mentor for the National Community College Hispanic Council Presidential Fellows Program, and formerly for the National Council on Black American Affairs Mid-Level African-American Administrators Leadership Institute which prepares the next generation of African-American community college presidents.

He has continued advocacy for the Latino community and was appointed to the State Superintendent of Education's Latinx Advisory Council, where he served for eight years, both as Chair and member. Additionally, he was on the initial board of the ALL In for Education Foundation, and is currently a board member of the ASU Los Diablos Latino Alumni Chapter, which provides scholarships. Moreover, he was a charter member of the (AZALAS) Arizona Association Latino Administrators and Superintendents and is a Board Member Emeritus. As host, of "La Platica" Program, sponsored by Latino USA TV/Roku/Firefox/Apple, Arizona Barrio Stories and Chicano Hollywood TV/ Los Angeles he documents Barrio Stories and the contributions of our Chicano culture, language, and history. Dr. Leyba was recently honored by the AGUILA Foundation at it's annual Breakfast of Champions Award, and both the AZALAS and the National ALAS Lifetime Achievement Award for his service to education. He and his wife, Debra, enjoy family pachangas and especially their grandchildren.

Educational Diversity Award

Presented to

Dr. Sybil Francis

Chair & President
Center for the Future of Arizona



Sybil Francis, Ph.D., serves as the Chair, President & CEO of Center for the Future of Arizona (CFA). A member of the organization's founding team, she brings her passion for creating positive change, her love of Arizona, and her considerable prior national public policy experience to her leadership of CFA, whose mission is to bring Arizonans together to create a stronger and brighter future for our state.

Under her leadership, Center for the Future of Arizona has an ambitious and positive agenda, focused on where Arizonans agree and where there is opportunity to come together for positive change. CFA advances The Arizona We Want, based on Arizonans' Shared Public Values and shared aspirations for the future of the state. As a self-proclaimed "do-tank," CFA also impacts education, workforce, and civic engagement through its innovative programs aimed at changing the trajectory of Arizona for the good and benefit of all Arizonans.

Earlier in her career, Dr. Francis served in a variety of national leadership roles, including as a senior policy director in the U.S. House of Representatives, where she played a key role in shaping energy, environmental, and national security policy. She later served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she focused on national research policy for the national laboratories and universities.

Dr. Francis is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Global Futures Scholar, Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory. She served on the board of The Nature Conservancy of Arizona for 12 years and chaired its Conservation and Public Policy Committee for much of her tenure. She was a founder and remains the Standing Chair of ASU's Women and Philanthropy program, a model women's organization with a unique approach to engaging women in the community. She also serves on the Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship steering committee for the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and is a member of both the Arizona Women's Forum and Charter 100.

Dr. Francis is widely recognized as a visionary leader, earning numerous honors that reflect her contributions to Arizona and beyond. Her leadership has been celebrated by the *Phoenix Business Journal*, *AZ Business Magazine*, the *Arizona Capitol Times*, and *PHOENIX Magazine*. In 2022, 48 Arizona Women and the Arizona Historical Society recognized her as one of Arizona's 48 Most Intriguing Women.

She received her BA in Chemistry from Oberlin College and her Ph.D. in Political Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She and her husband, Dr. Michael Crow, reside in Paradise Valley, and they have an adult daughter who brings them great joy.



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION

The Pete C. Garcia Victoria Foundation thanks our
Sponsors for their leadership and support.



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2010 - 2024 Recipients

2010 Award Recipients

Mr. Richard Boals
President/CEO, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona
Recipient of the Educational Funder Award

Representative Olivia Cajero Bedford
State Representative for District 27
Recipient of the Education Advocate Award

Mr. David Gonzales
US Marshal – Arizona
Recipient of the Educational Success Award

Mr. Riccio Torrez and Mr. Raoul Torrez
Recipients, of the Role Models of Educational Success

2011 Award Recipients

Mrs. Dorothy Garcia
Administrative Director for St. Joseph's Medical Group
Recipient of the Role Model of Education Success Award

Dr. Rufus Glasper
Chancellor for Maricopa Community Colleges
Recipient of the Advocate for Education Award

Mr. Jesus Thomas Espinoza
President of La Raza Fund
Recipient of the Patron for Medical Education Facilities Award

Mr. Leo Valdez
Senior Vice President and Manager Hutchinson, Shockey, Erley and Company
Recipient of the Patron of Medical Projects Award

Dr. Ted Tong, Associate Dean,
University of Arizona School of Pharmacy
Recipient of the Advocate for Medicine Award

2012 Award Recipients

Mr. Tim Hogan
Executive Director
Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
Recipient of the Legal Advocate for Education Award

Ms. Carmen de Novais Guerrero
Executive Director
Cultural Coalition
Recipient of the Patron for the Arts in Education Award

Mr. Cloves Campbell, Jr.
Publisher, Arizona Informant
Recipient of the Education Excellence in the Media Award

Dr. David Camacho
Associate Vice President of Diversity
Northern Arizona University
Recipient of the Advocate for Diversity Award

Ms. Tillie Arvizu
Vice President of CPLC Community Schools
Recipient of Education Success Award

2013 Award Recipients

Mr. Paul Ahern
Architect
Member of American Institute of Architects
Recipient of the Architect of Education Facilities Award

Mr. Alberto Esparza
President / CEO
Si Se Puede Foundation
Recipient of the Advocate for Excellence in Youth Education Award

Dr. Steven R. Helfgot
Vice Chancellor / President/CEO
Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation
Recipient of the Champion of Education Award

Dr. Sylvia Lee
Board Member
Pima Community College Board of Governors
Recipient of the Patron of Education Award

Mr. Rick DeGraw
Executive Vice President / Chief Administrative Officer
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

2014 Award Recipients

Ms. Tammy McLeod
Vice President
Energy Resource Management, Arizona Public Service
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Mr. Ray "Gumbi" Salazar
Musician
Retired, Department of Corrections
Recipient of the Patron for the Arts Award

Mr. Martin Samaniego
Glendale Elementary School Board Member
Recipient of the Advocate for Excellence in Education Award

Dr. Octaviana Valenzuela Trujillo
Professor of Applied Indigenous Studies
Northern Arizona University
Recipient of the Role Model of Educational Accomplishments Award

Dr. Macario Saldate IV
Member, District 3
Arizona House of Representatives
Recipient of the Advocate for Diversity Award

2015 Award Recipients

Mr. Gary and Mrs. Melissa Trujillo
Founders
Be a Leader Foundation
Recipients of the Advocate for Excellence in Youth Education Award

Ms. Susan Glawe
Vice President of Community Relations
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Dr. David Garcia
Associate Professor
Arizona State University
Recipient of the Champion of Education Award

Mr. Armando Ruiz
Founder
Espiritu Community Development Corporation
Recipient of the Architect of Education Award

Ms. Verma Pastor
Education Activist
Recipient of the Education Award

2016 Award Recipients

Mr. Eneas Kane
Managing Director/CEO, DMB
Pacific Ventures
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Ms. Nachie Marquez
Assistant City Manager
City of Chandler
Recipient of the Champion of Education Award

Mr. Jacob Moore
Assistant Vice President
Tribal Relations, Office of University Affairs
Arizona State University
Recipient of the Advocate of Education Award

Mr. James R. Moffett, Jr.
President
Crescent Crown Distributing
Recipient of the Community Alliance Award

Ms. Pam Conboy
Desert Mountain Regional President
Wells Fargo Bank
Recipient of the Corporate Support Award

2017 Award Recipients

Ms. Olivia Zepeda
Associate Superintendent
Gadsden Elementary School District #32
Recipient of the Advocate for Excellence in Youth Education Award

Ms. Annette Musa
Arizona Market President
Comerica Wealth Management
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Mr. Paul Luna
President
Helios Education Foundation
Recipient of the Advocate for Excellence in Education Award

Dr. Rita Hartung Cheng
President
Northern Arizona University
Recipient of the Advocate for Education Diversity Award

Ms. Treena Parvello
Director of Public Relations and Communications
Desert Diamond Casinos & Entertainment
Recipient of the Role Model of Educational Accomplishments Award

2018 Award Recipients

Ms. Rosanna Hidalgo
Associate Superintendent
Phoenix Elementary School District
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Dr. Mark Searle
Executive Vice President, Provost,
Arizona State University
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

Mr. Mark Breen
President
Atlantic Development and Investment Corporation
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Mr. Ron Aguallo
Superintendent, Douglas Unified School District
Recipient of the Role Model of Educational Accomplishments Award

Mr. Alberto Esparza
President, Si Se Puede Foundation
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

2019 Award Recipients

Ms. Terri de Leon
Senior Program Officer
Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Dr. Kino Flores
Governing Board Member,
Tolleson High School District
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

APS
Recipient of the Sustained Benefactor of Education Award

Laura Pastor
Governing Board Member
Phoenix Union High School District
Recipient of the Academic Achievement Award

Dr. Daniel Corr
President
Arizona Western College
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

2020 / 2021 Award Recipients

Mr. Miguel Bravo
Strategic Partnership Manager
APS
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Ms. Norma Munoz
Governing Board Roosevelt School District #66
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona
Recipient of the Sustained Benefactor of Education Award

Ms. Elisa de la Vara
Senior Director of Philanthropic Services-Community Initiatives
Arizona Community Foundation
Recipient of the Academic Achievement Award

Mr. George Dean
President CEO
Greater Phoenix Urban League
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

NOTE: Award recipients for 2020 were selected in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 crisis, the award recipients were not acknowledged and given their awards until 2021

2022 Award Recipients

Dr. Manuel Valenzuela
Superintendent
Sahuarita High School
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Ms. Lety Miranda Garcia
Publisher
Prensa Arizona
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Dr. James Rund
Senior Vice President
Educational Outreach and Student Services
Arizona State University
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

Dr. Chad E. Gestson
Superintendent
Phoenix Union High School District
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

2023 Award Recipients

José Gastelum

Superintendent, Sunnyside Unified School District
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Maria Chavoya

Board Member, Arizona Western College
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

Diana Diaz-Harrison

Founder / CEO, Arizona Autism Charter School
Recipient of the Benefactor of Education Award

Patricia Garcia Duarte

Executive Vice President, Homeownership Initiatives
Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc.
Recipient of the Academic Achievement Award

David Bernstein

Chairperson of the Board, Harmony Project Phoenix
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

Diogo Pereira

Founder and Executive Director,
Harmony Project Phoenix
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

2024 Award Recipients

Efrain Casillas

Coordinator of Music Programs
Tolleson Elementary School District
Recipient of the Excellence in Youth Education Award

Tim Brienza

Superintendent
Yuma Union High School District
Recipient of the Educational Diversity Award

Mark Yslas

Superintendent
Agua Fria High School District
Recipient of the Excellence in Education Award

Maria Echeveste

Bank of America
*Recipient of the Sustained Benefactor/Promoter
of Educatino Award*

Karen Armknecht

V.P. Research & Development
Chicanos por la Causa
Recipient of the Academic Achievement Award



Francesca Cruz-Ortega

Board Member

2021 -2024

*A Special Gracias for your
dedicated service & support*

*Thank you for joining us in supporting and celebrating
Pete's passion and legacy for education.*



Pete Garcia

1944 - 2017

Husband - Father - Visionary - Leader - Friend



THE PETE C. GARCIA
VICTORIA
FOUNDATION



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