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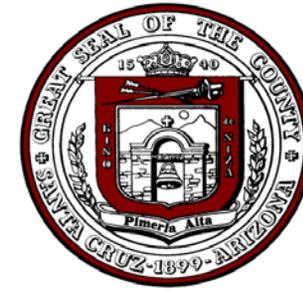
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**A SALUTE TO GREAT TEACHERS...**

**THOSE WHO SEE THE DREAMS AND  
YEARNINGS OF EVERY STUDENT AS AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO MOTIVATE AND GUIDE  
EACH TOWARD A TOMORROW OF GREAT  
PROMISE.**



# 2013 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year



*“Education must not simply teach work – it must teach life.”*

*~W.E.B. DuBois*



2013  
**Santa Cruz County  
 Teacher of the Year**



Event Sponsored by:  
 The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent  
 and  
 Nogales Rotary Club

Welcome:	Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez Santa Cruz County School Superintendent
Pledge of Allegiance	
Introduction of Nogales Rotary Club	Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez
District Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent: District Superintendent Director of Curriculum Instruction	Mr. Steve Zimmerman, NUSD#1 Mr. Fernando Parra, NUSD#1 Mr. Rodney Rich, SCVUSD#35 Mr. Steve Shadler, SCVUSD#35
2012 SCC Teacher of the Year:	Mr. David Thompson, AJ Mitchell, E.S.
2011 SCC Teacher of the Year:	Ms. Leah Joy Oberg, Coatimundi, M.S.
2010 SCC Teacher of the Year:	Ms. Toni Ann Schadler, Coatimundi M.S.
2009 SCC Teacher of the Year:	Ms. Elizabeth Siordia, Desert Shadows M.S.
Arizona Educational Foundation:	Ms. Bobbie O'Boyle, Executive Director
Guest Speaker:	Ms. Bobbie O'Boyle 2011 Latina Teacher of the Year Ambassador for the Arizona Educational Foundation
Special Awards:	Ms. Judy Neal
Presentation of 2013 Santa Cruz County	Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez
2012 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Recipient	Mr. Alfredo I. Velásquez
Paul Harris Award:	Mr. Jim Rowe
Nogales Humanitarian Award:	Mr. Jim Rowe, Mr. Dean Davis
Special Thanks:	Ms. Denisse Melendez Ms. Patricia Baraza Preciado Ms. Toni Ann Schadler Mr. Jorge Leon Ms. Adela Carrillo Ms. Janet Annett Ms. Janet Winans Mr. Jose Valencia

**Ms. Yuki Carrillo**  
**Peña Blanca Elementary School**  
**Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District # 35**  
**Principal: Ms. Ivonne Ferreira**



It's my belief that all children can learn. It's the goal of my classroom to create a productive learning environment. I am going to prepare everyday with the mindset of creating a spark within the minds of my students. Of course, I try to become aware of the strengths and weakness of each student through continuous assessment and observations because I will do whatever it takes to reach each one of my students to achieve their full potential." My rewards on teaching is just to help my students to have an "ah ah" moment, just to see a student finally succeed often several failures, to see that they are smiling because they "got it", the sparkle of their eyes because they really understood the lesson, or just telling you "it wasn't too difficult to do it.

Everyone who remembers his own educational experience remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teacher is the kingpin of the education situation. He makes or breaks programs.

-Sidney Hook



**Ms. Elizabeth Turner Thomson**  
**Nogales High School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Ms. Judith Mendoza-Jimenez**

I believe that my greatest contribution to education are my passion and commitment towards my profession. Everyday that I am in my classroom, I give my all to make sure that the students that I am teaching are engaged. I make sure that each individual student is treated with kindness and respect and I make it clear to them that I am not only there to teach them, but I am also there to help and guide them. I truly believe that teaching is the most rewarding career in the world. Whether you work with small children or college student, the difference you can make in their lives is immense.



**Ms. Patricia M. Valenzuela**  
**Wade Carpenter Middle School**  
**Nogales Unified School District #1**  
**Principal: Ms. Liza Montiel**

Teaching is the art of juggling one's educational beliefs while under the world's magnifying glass, trying to teach the student as a whole, not in parts. A mind and body are nothing to mess around or waste time with. I believe that if anyone has the opportunity to enhance another's ability to improve, one should grab and positively influence, mold and nurture its growth. I believe an outstanding teacher is one who gets to know every student on an individual basis, nurtures him/her like if they were their own and entice them to believe in themselves enough to become whatever they strive to be.



**Ms. Paola Villarreal**  
**Mary L. Welty Elementary School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Ms. Aissa Bonillas**

I think the absolute greatest factor that makes me the teacher I am is, without a doubt, my relationship with God. He gives me the patience I need to be flexible to change, pull through every day, and remember the millions of to-do's. He's the one that reminds me that these 5<sup>th</sup> graders, although my height, are only 10 or 11 year old kids. He keeps me grounded so that I may always keep in mind that in the end, they're human, and that helps me be more understanding towards them.

My heart is singing for joy this morning. A miracle has happened. The light of understanding has shone upon my little pupil's mind, and behold, all things are changed.

-Annie Sullivan

**Ms. Claudia P. Acosta**  
**Desert Shadows Middle School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Ms. Joan Molera**

Teaching has been specially rewarding for me. I can honestly say that after all these years of teaching I still wake up every day eager to continue and take the challenge of teaching. Knowing that in my classroom I have an environment that helps students feel welcome and important give me satisfaction. This type of satisfaction is directly related to the feeling of accomplishment knowing I have worked tirelessly to shape my students' minds and provide them with skills to survive the ever changing world around us.

**Ms. Julie Ballard**  
**Calabasas Middle School**  
**Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District # 35**  
**Principal: Mr. David Verdugo**

I believe that we need to recognize that not only are our students children, but they are human too. They need to be allowed to make mistakes, they need to every once in a while forget their homework at home without getting grilled about it, and every once in a while they need to be allowed to have a bad day without a call home. One of the rewards of teaching middle school is that not only can I allow them not to be perfect, but they can also forgive me for not being perfect as well. At some point, I will give the wrong answer or make a mistake in grading or leave my homework at home.



**Mr. Philip Brown**  
**Rio Rico High School**  
**Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District # 35**  
**Principal: Ms. Shelly Vroegh**

Teaching math involves fear management. It is an exercise in psychological training as much as it is a practice of instilling solid conceptual foundations. Nothing makes me more proud than when I see a student that returns years later and is mathematically proficient and successful. Often the students that are low performing are quiet, shy and uncomfortable in math class. When they develop the habits required for success in mathematics, their view of themselves improves. They grow as people.





**Ms. Carmen B. Cintora**  
**Robert M. Bracker Elementary School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Dr. Michelle Olguin**

I strive to be a role model not only to my students, parents, co-workers, but also to my community. Service and giving is my motto. I don't worry about what rewards I receive. I only worry about giving my students all the things they need but don't have. I show my students that they are loved, are cared for, and they belong in our classroom community. Taking care of my students' social and emotional needs, in addition to the academics, is important to me. I firmly believe that all things that come from me will be returned to me.



**Ms. Diana G. Lopez**  
**Challenger Elementary**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Mr. Wil Arias**

It is my goal as an educator to help my students develop integrity and respect in a loving, nurturing and challenging classroom environment. I hope to foster trusting relationships with my students so that they feel unique and capable, valuable and successful. I want them to learn that hard work is a reward in itself and that it does pay off. When I look back at my teaching experiences which have included many highs and lows, I truly cannot imagine myself doing anything else. Teaching is my life's motivation and gives me purpose. I thoroughly love what I do and I hope that it shows in my classroom and in the eyes and spirits of my students.



**Ms. Martina Martínez**  
**Fco. Vasquez de Coronado Elementary School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Ms. Annette Barber**

My personal teaching style requires me to wear a variety of hats in a normal teaching day. I am a cheerleader, a counselor, a mediator, a nurse, a disciplinarian, a secretary, a technician and facilitator of learning. I have often heard other teachers say how "needy" kinder students are. Well, I love being every single one of these things on a given day because that is what my students "need" from me. I am the person they spend 7 hours a day within the confines of a classroom. Teaching, for me, goes beyond the Common Core Standards.

A teacher affects eternity, he can never tell where his influence stops.

-Henry Adams



**Ms. Dora Maria V. Medina**  
**Lincoln Elementary School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Ms. Lucina Romero**

Teaching is a very challenging, demanding, compromising and beautiful career. It can form or affect a child's life. I believe that every child CAN LEARN, regardless of their background, language or family situation. Every child has the right to succeed. I believe that each and every child is unique and might have their own learning needs, but with patience, understanding and love they can gain knowledge. It is my responsibility as a teacher to implement the best strategies and different modalities to help them achieve their future challenges.



**Ms. Mimi L. Renteria**  
**Mountain View Elementary School**  
**Santa Cruz Valley Unified School District # 35**  
**Principal: Mr. Manuel Carrillo**

Dedication is more than staying way past the ringing of the last bell; it is more coming early or even coming in on weekends. It is what is done during that time that makes a teacher outstanding. A dedicated teacher takes the time to sufficiently prepare for their lessons. This time enables a teacher to clearly define what is to be taught, how to teach it at differentiated levels of instruction, how to assess what is being taught, finally how to re-teach the lesson for those students who were struggling. Dedication is the belief that every child can learn and having the determination to find the paths to lead them there.



**Ms. Roxanne M. Teran**  
**AJ Mitchell Elementary School**  
**Nogales Unified School District # 1**  
**Principal: Dr. Molly Cassidy**

The reward that I find in teaching is almost as multifaceted as teaching itself. It is mid-lesson when all of the students are interacting with knowledge and I become a bystander but the view is breathtaking. It is also when I see my previous elementary students in my college class continuing the lifelong skill of learning. What I share, teach, guide, promote or discuss with my students includes so much more than skills, strategies and "school". It is the beginning of a life long journey of choices, responsibilities, collaboration and inspiration to do what is right, learn what is crucial and explore what is foreign.

The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.

-William Arthur Ward