



# NEWSLETTER



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## MESSAGE FROM YUMA COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TOM HURT

I hope that everyone had a great summer. The Yuma County Education Service Agency is anxious to continue to help the Yuma County education community this upcoming school year. We are a *service agency* for the Yuma County education community.

We are thankful for all of the help that our office has received from so many community partners. As you will see in this bulletin, we have already planned many events. We have programs to identify students and teachers to be highlighted for outstanding performance. Celebrating teachers this last school year has been such a rewarding experience for all of us.

If you have anything that you would like to include in our monthly bulletin, please let Eliana Osborn know (her email is how you received this newsletter). A special thank you to Eliana for working tirelessly to provide assistance to our educators.



### **NOMINATE A STUDENT FOR A GOOD THINGS IN EDUCATION AWARD**

Tell us about a student who is doing good things in life. Maybe she's a volunteer at the hospital; maybe he has made progress on his attendance. We want to celebrate student successes. They'll get a gift card!

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## SOUTH YUMA COUNTY ANTI-DRUG COALITION



We are pleased to announce our joining for the SYCADC, serving the communities of Somerton and San Luis. They are growing and looking for more partners as they provide training to students, families and the community about vaping and other substance use awareness.

If you'd like to learn more, visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SYCADC/>

If you'd like to join their monthly coalition meetings on zoom, the registration form is here: <https://form.jotform.com/233054948740157>

## SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION HAPPENINGS

Monday July 8 was the final day for school board candidates to submit signature petitions and nomination statements to qualify for the November 5 election. Across the ten school districts in Yuma County, 32 governing board seats are up for a vote this fall. 42 candidates turned in their documents on time. School board elections are nonpartisan so candidates do not appear on primary ballots.

November 21, the Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) will provide a training here in Yuma for all current and elected school board members as well as interested other parties. This training will cover using the Policy Bridge software and the different responsibilities board members face. Yuma Union High School District is graciously hosting this event from 1-4 in their board room. Registration is at: <https://azsba.org/asba-policy-bridge-regional-trainings-november-21/>

## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPORT

ADE has provided us the position of Yuma County Program Specialist as part of the County Consortia initiative created by Superintendent Tom Horne. Eliana Osborn serves in this position, embedded in our county office. Here's a sampling of events and services we've been able to bring to Yuma in 2024 from ADE:

- Migrant Education Program
- Literacy/ELA
- Office of English Language Acquisition (OELAS)
- Title II: Well-Managed Classroom
- Math and ESS Math
- Career Technical Education

Before 2025, the following ADE trainings will take place locally:

- Teacher Wellness (Safe and Healthy Schools)
  - Migrant Education Program
  - Gifted Education
  - Office and English Language Acquisition (OELAS)
  - School Accountability
  - Dyslexia
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## GRANTS AND SPONSORSHIPS

Children's Dental	Allo Fiber
Gila Ridge Dental	Raising Cane's
Yuma International Airport	In-n-Out
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Foundation	Freedom Library
4Imprint	Freddy's Frozen Custard
Arizona Reads	Avenir
Center for the Future of Arizona	Yuma Investment Group

### Why grants and sponsorships?

Offering professional development and other services out of our office is a new pursuit. We do not have an event budget or funds through the county to award teachers. Thanks to grant funds and generous community support, we have been able to: rent spaces for events; pay teachers for working extra hours; award teachers and students for excellence; bring experts to town for high quality professional development; buy hands on materials; feed people at events.

We are always looking for partnerships that provide benefits to our educators and organizations or businesses. Please reach out if you are interested in joining us in supporting schools in Yuma County.

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## CELEBRATING GOOD THINGS IN EDUCATION

We began in December 2023 with Brooke Curtis from Mohawk Valley School. Since then we've had great feedback about our Teacher of the Month program. We've loved visiting schools, surprising teachers, and making a few people cry. We heard over and over again that teachers in Yuma need more opportunities to be recognized for all their amazing work.

**We listened.** Thanks to generous community sponsors like Allo Fiber and others, we are so excited to announce 37 Teachers of the Week! That's right, every single week of the 2024-2025 school year we will celebrate one Good Thing in Education Teacher.

Each district has certain dates allocated--and every district decides in their own way how they will choose their teachers. Don't worry, we're also including slots for charter and private schools who are also serving students in our community.

What it looks like: Eliana Osborn reaches out to district leaders asking for their teacher selections, usually in the middle of the previous month. She gets a photograph and blurb about each teacher and asking for all involved to keep things secret. Once a week, she will come visit the school with the teacher. Often news media will join her but not always. Each teacher gets a certificate and check for \$100. They will have a banner on social media which is also shared in this monthly newsletter.

We love the Education Foundation of Yuma County's Teacher of the Year award and banquet, but want to find more ways to let the community know about all the great educators we have in Yuma. We hope to be able to reach every school in the future but are overjoyed to be able to expand Good Things in Education 300% this year.



## HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU?


Ever wonder why we offer certain trainings? It is because of conversations we have formally and casually with different leaders and educators. We look at school and district data, as well as your Comprehensive Needs Assessments and Action Plans. This gives us an idea about issues being worked on or areas of concern.

There are endless professional development opportunities from Arizona Department of Education and other entities. But we only want to bring things to Yuma that target real needs, are high quality, and that provide actionable takeaways.

We sent out a survey in late 2023 to see what sort of needs different schools have. We'd **LOVE** to have you fill it out again (or for the first time), whatever your role is in the education system.

<https://forms.gle/nfscVMCfKd5rMJDKA>

Yuma County Education Service Agency presents  
with support from Center for the Future of Arizona



# SARSEF

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tailored profession development to support educators in creating a successful science fair project as a class AND supporting students in creating science fair projects.

Attendees will be eligible for financial sponsorship of a class project.

**Wednesday August 28**

**DISTRICT 1 POST 11-1**

**CENTENNIAL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2:30-4:30**

**Thursday August 29**

**SOMERTON L HOLLIS ROOM 509**

**12-2PM**

CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF ARIZONA

Teachers who attend one of these sessions will be able to receive funds for a class project.

YUMA COUNTY EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY PRESENTS

# MENTAL HEALTH MORNING

**August 17, 2024 | 9 AM - 11 AM**  
**Yuma Main Library**

The event is free and open to the public.  
Two sessions: one focused on adult well-being, another focused on young people and their emotional health.



**APPLY TODAY!**  
Open to Educators in Yuma County

**ABOUT ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER'S SCIENCE TEACHER RESIDENCY (STAR) PROGRAM**

STAR is an innovative program led by expert facilitators and content specialists that focuses on addressing common misconceptions about STEM subjects that are often taught in the classroom. Over four days of in-person instruction, educators will experience hands-on, research-based learning activities and gain the tools to take those same lessons back to their classrooms.

**WHY APPLY? STAR PERKS INCLUDE:**

- \$450 Participant stipend
- \$500 worth of supplies for the classroom to implement the content
- 40 professional development hours

**STAR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE MODULE**  
September 21-22 & 28-29 | 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Focused on Grades 4, 5, 6, and 8

Explore the study of the environment and solutions to environmental problems by examining physical, chemical and biological conditions of the environment and their effect on organisms!

**LOCATION**  
Mary Elizabeth Post  
400 W 5th St.  
Yuma, AZ 85504

**TO APPLY**  
CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE



THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTY!

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# ROADMAP TO A ROCKIN' PROJECT

**A SARSEF community program**

**Wednesday  
August 28**

Parents, caregivers and educators take away a better understanding of their supporting role in the process of student research.

Students leave ready to investigate their topic with a roadmap for their research journey or engineering design solution.

**CENTENNIAL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**2650 W 20TH ST**  
*5:30-7pm*

come have fun as a family and get ready for an amazing science fair project!

For more information, email:

**[eliana.osborn@azed.gov](mailto:eliana.osborn@azed.gov)**

# MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

is coming to NAU–Yuma this fall

**Are you ready to pursue a career in mechanical engineering?**

NAU–Yuma's Mechanical Engineering bachelor's degree program is fully accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (ABET). Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity—**apply now!**

**Contact NAU and get started today**

Department: Enrollment and Student Service Center

Location: 2020 S Ave 8E, Yuma, AZ 8536, 3C Bldg Rm #2201

NAU.Yuma@nau.edu | 928-317-6436 | [nau.edu/yuma/mechanical-engineering](https://nau.edu/yuma/mechanical-engineering)

NAU is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution/UM1113002, 06/21



## Get a bachelor's degree at NAU in Yuma!



[nau.edu/yuma](https://nau.edu/yuma)

**NAU**  
NORTHERN  
ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY