



# NEWSLETTER

## REGISTRATION **OPEN**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yuma-county-professional-development-day-unlocking-opportunities-tickets-982109986407?aff=ODDTDTCREATOR>



**UNLOCKING  
OPPORTUNITIES**

Yuma County Education Service Agency  
Professional Development Conference

March 8, 2025

JOIN US FOR A  
FULL DAY OF  
LEARNING AT  
ARIZONA  
WESTERN  
COLLEGE

## MESSAGE FROM YUMA COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TOM HURT

Election season has come to an end. I want to thank Deputy Superintendent Elizabeth Valenzuela, as well as Vivian Williams and Cristal Kautzer, for their endless hours making sure things went smoothly for school board and other education related ballot measures.

Thank you also to everyone who ran for office! Whether or not you won, we could not effectively manage our school districts without willing service from the community.

I hope you all were able to spend time with family over Thanksgiving. There is much to be grateful for in Yuma. We have 40,000 students across the county and so many dedicated educators working every day to meet their needs. It is a difficult job without a lot of praise, but you are seen and appreciated. Thank you for your professionalism.



928-373-1006



210 S. 1st Avenue

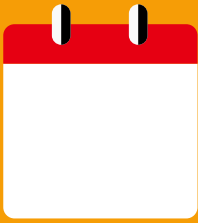
## ARIZONA EL TEACHER OF THE YEAR!



We are so excited that Sunrise Elementary School's very own Aneli Obregon was celebrated as the Arizona Department of Education English Language Teacher of the Year. We know Yuma teachers do amazing work to help students succeed and love to get recognition outside our area. Thank you to everyone who made this a special event!



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**



## Important Dates

December 5 - Universal Design for Learning Training

January 3 - Student Voice Institute, Yuma

January 24 - Yuma County Counselors Conference

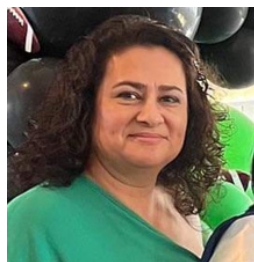
January 31 - Yuma County Science and Engineering Expo Finalist Judging

## CAREER EXPLORATION RESOURCES



In partnership with Center for the Future of Arizona and Arizona State University, we have created a School-Community Directory to be used across Yuma County. November 13 we showcased the platform to a group of education and industry partners. If you want to view the directory, take a look at <https://education.asu.edu/action-and-impact/community-school-directory>.

## CONGRATULATIONS TEACHERS OF THE WEEK!



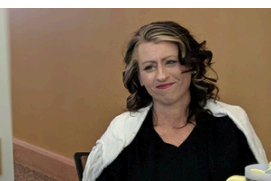
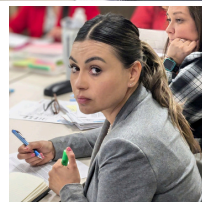
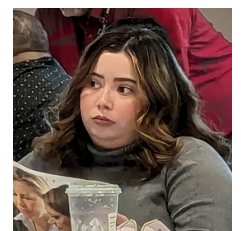
Kristin Collins, English and AVID teacher at Cibola High School and Nelida Guerrero at Palmcroft Elementary School were November Good Things in Education winners. One of our favorite opportunities is to come surprise fabulous educators in our community.

## MATH INTERVENTIONS

We had a busy day November 14 with two full sessions from the math team at the Arizona Department of Education. They have been frequent Yuma County visitors this year as every district is looking for support on how to address unfinished learning.

This training focused on small group instruction, enabling all levels of students to access grade level content.

Our afternoon was just for Gadsden Elementary School District, as they initially requested the event. Morning was open to all schools in the county. This is something we can help you organize for your school if you let us know your specific needs.



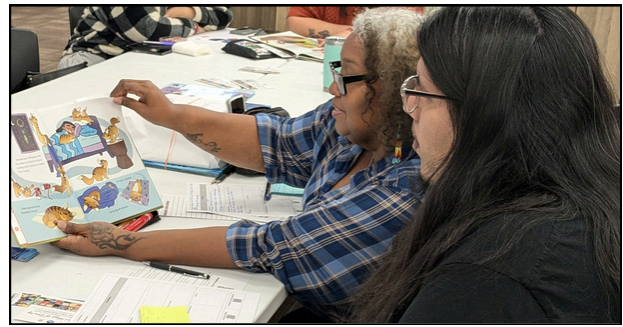


## GREATER YUMA AREA INDIGENOUS LITERACY DAY

November 8 we were able to host the first annual learning day for our community focused on literature written by indigenous authors representing modern life. This day would not have been possible without the participation of the Cocopah and Quechan tribes, as well as the Arizona Department of Education Office of Indian Affairs.

The morning session was packed with participants learning about early childhood literacy (birth to age eight) and texts. The afternoon session was for middle and high school learners. We so appreciated teams of educators coming together to learn and talk about the specific needs on their campus.

If you are interested in resources from this event, please reach out to our office. We have easy links to books, strategies, and more!



CENTER  
FOR THE FUTURE OF  
ARIZONA

Participatory  
Governance  
Initiative  
ASU Arizona State University

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE &  
EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

## SPB STUDENT VOICE INSTITUTE

**PAID PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

Participants will receive training and resources to engage their students in an innovative civic learning opportunity, including professional development hours and up to \$100 professional learning stipend.

**ABOUT**

In this training, you will learn about an innovative civic learning model that promotes student voice:

School Participatory Budgeting (SPB).

Through SPB, students "learn democracy by doing" through a process of collecting ideas, developing proposals, and voting to fund improvement projects that build stronger school communities. This training will equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to explore bringing SPB to your campus in 2025-2026.

Attendees will be provided with breakfast and lunch at the training.

**TRAINING OBJECTIVES**

- Civic Learning**  
Understand how incorporating student voice into classroom and school initiatives addresses the civic learning gap
- Change Making**  
Create opportunities for students to enact change through participatory budgeting
- Program Implementation**  
Develop an action plan for implementing SPB in the classroom or school during the 2025-2026 school year
- Empowering Students**  
Understand how to create student-led deliverables
- Project-Based Learning**  
Explore strategies for managing and implementing civic education project-based learning

**REGISTER TODAY!**

4-12TH GRADE  
EDUCATORS

JAN 3, 2025  
9 AM-4 PM

YUMA MAIN LIBRARY

2951 S 21st Dr Yuma, AZ 85364

## COUNSELORS CONFERENCE

Today's school counselors wear many hats, from scheduling and college or career readiness to supporting teachers and students. That's why we're hosting the first Yuma County School Counselors Conference in January, split into two sessions based on the grade levels served.

YUMA COUNTY

# Counselors Conference

JANUARY 24, 2025

- Arizona Western College
- Morning: K-8 Schools
- Afternoon: High Schools

Registration open at  
<https://azed.geniussis.com/FERRegistration.aspx?search=YUMA>

STIPEND AVAILABLE FOR ALL  
PARTICIPANTS

The first Arizona Secretary of State was Sidney P. Osborn. He was stricken with Lou Gehrig's disease, but he refused to resign. "Only death or the people of Arizona will remove me from office." He was the first Arizona State Governor to die while serving in office.

## CLASSROOM VOTING FOR ARIZONA 250 LOGO

### Brought to you by the Secretary of State's Office

In 2026, the United States will mark our Semiquincentennial: the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Talented Arizonans from across the state submitted a wide variety of incredible designs to mark the 250th...and now it's time to choose one!

Help us select the iconic logo that will represent our state's vibrant spirit, stunning landscapes, and rich heritage for this landmark anniversary.

Here's the link: <https://dev-az2-sos.pantheonsite.io/about/az250-logo>

Take a look at a few of the 10 options here and help get your students involved with making choices for their state.



## SCIENCE OPPORTUNITY



UC San Diego

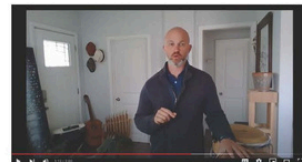
### SCIENCE OF SOUND AND MUSIC WORKSHOP FEBRUARY 8, 2025



In this 1-day in-person workshop for 8th grade teachers, you will learn how to use a series of [web applications](#) and hands-on learning experiences to playfully explore and create sound. This workshop will be facilitated by [Dr. Victor Minces](#) and Dr. Alec Barron. You will experience an [NGSS-aligned instructional unit](#) that you can teach your students.

"I really enjoyed the workshop. I'm now excited to teach waves and sound instead of dreading it. I feel like I have a much better understanding of the topic and I'm excited to see how my students do with the lessons."  
- Teacher in Riverside County

"A strength of this workshop is EVERYTHING. It was absolutely amazing. I thought that Victor and Alec brilliantly planned it out. I loved how Victor was our "teacher" and Alec had the teacher hat on so we had both perspectives. I loved how we were very hands on with our experiments and was able to work through it with partners."  
-Teacher in San Diego County



[Click to Watch Workshop Invitation Video from Dr. Victor Minces](#)

#### HOW WILL YOU PARTICIPATE?

- **When:** Saturday February 8
  - 8:30 am-3:30 pm each day.
- **Where:** Arizona Western College, Room AS 106
- **Food:** Lunch Provided
- **Stipend:** \$100



#### QUESTIONS?

Contact us at: [sdsp@ucsd.edu](mailto:sdsp@ucsd.edu)  
or [eliana.osborn@azed.gov](mailto:eliana.osborn@azed.gov)

FOCUSED ON 8TH GRADE TEACHERS, BUT OPEN TO **ANY TEACHER IN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL SPACE** SINCE WE KNOW ASSIGNMENTS CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR. \$100 FOR EACH PARTICIPANT.