



# NEWSLETTER



## ARIZONA 'STATE OF EDUCATION' ADDRESS SET FOR JANUARY 21

On January 21st at 2pm Superintendent Horne will address the Arizona House Legislators in person. He will present the State of Education address. Attached below is the booklet covered in our most recent Management meeting. There will be web link that can be referenced on January 21st at approx. 2 pm <https://www.azleg.gov> (click HOUSE)

Superintendent Horne has 15 initiatives that he's focusing on during his term in office, ranging from Leadership Training to English Language Learners. The County Consortium Initiative is what has provided Yuma County with a program specialist, Eliana Osborn.

Provided trainings from County Consortia from late 2023-2024 are as follows:

Yuma: 37 trainings for 1200 educators  
Graham: 5 trainings for 55 educators  
Cochise: 2 trainings for 42 educators

## THREE STEM GRANTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

We are thrilled to announce three grants that are going to enable us to begin a project we've been working on behind the scenes for the past year.

The Rural STEM Lending Library from the Yuma County Education Service Agency will be housed at Arizona Western College. Unlike a traditional library, this facility won't house books--instead it will be full of science, technology, engineering and math materials for hands on learning.

Our first focus is on elementary engineering, with project based kits fully stocked with disposable materials. We have two specialists being trained on using the kits so that we can support educators as they roll out. We also have high school level engineering projects thanks to our partners at Yuma Proving Grounds.

Stay tuned for information on orientation training that will be required before checking out lending library materials. This is all possible through support from Burton Family Foundation, General Motors Foundation, and the APS Foundation.



### Important Dates

January 24: School Counselors Conference, AWC

January 16: YCSEE Registration Closes

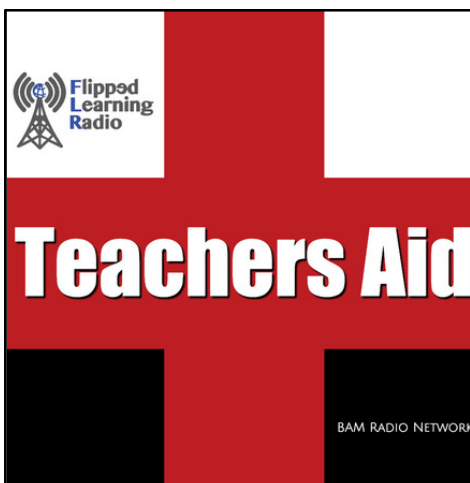
February 12: County Spelling Bee

February 13: YCSEE Awards Ceremony

## TEACHERS AID PODCAST

Jon Harper and Mandy Froehlich refocus Teachers Aid on providing social and emotional support for the very personal challenges teachers face. If you are an educator who gives teaching your all but still feels that you're not doing enough, this show is for you. Each episode ranges from ten to twenty minutes and feature a variety of guests.

Episodes have included Teaching While Stressed, Differentiating Brain Breaks, Helping Students Get One Percent Better, and more. Available on all platforms.



Interested in legislative happenings for the new session? We like Legi Scan, a national resource. View Arizona details at <https://legiscan.com/AZ/legislation>

## CAREER EXPLORATION HELPS FOR ALL AGES

We have a new page on our website focused on career exploration activities for all ages. Some resources are teacher facing, like our Community-School directory where you can find local businesses interested in partnering with schools. You'll also find resources for business and industry visitors who may be unsure how what you expect from a career day presentation.

Expect this page to continue to grow as we hear from YOU about what will make career exploration work more seamlessly at your school.

We'll be teaming up with Center for the Future of Arizona and the Yuma Chamber of Commerce to build stronger pathways locally to enhance career readiness.

Visit [yumaesa.org/career-exploration](https://yumaesa.org/career-exploration) to see what is currently available, and let us know if you have requests.

## TEACHER AWARDS DECEMBER

Kindergarten teacher Itzel Gutierrez at Crane's HL Suverkrup Elementary and Katrina Herrera, master teacher and special education guru from Gadsden's Rio Colorado Elementary were our two Teachers of the Week from December.



## MARCH 8 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

We are excited to start sharing with you our jam packed program for our second annual county wide professional development day, to be held Saturday March 8. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, along with thirty breakout sessions geared to needs and requests we've heard from YOU!

**This year's conference will be held at Arizona Western College and registration is just \$30 per person on Eventbrite.**

Expect to learn about the juvenile justice system, primary grades writing, AI in the classroom, teacher leadership, digital escape rooms, vaping, science notebooks, mineral properties, building thinking classrooms and SO MUCH MORE!



## UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

Yuma County Education Service Agency  
Professional Development Conference

March 8, 2025

### NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY TEACHING ACADEMY



NCTA is a consortium of universities offering a graduate certificate for in-service high school teachers. 160 teachers have enrolled since NCTA launched in 2022. Supported via NCAE-C grant H98230-24-1-0106.

Contact information: [melissa.dark@darkenterprisesinc.com](mailto:melissa.dark@darkenterprisesinc.com) or [sabrina.smiley@darkenterprisesinc.com](mailto:sabrina.smiley@darkenterprisesinc.com)



[teachcyber.org/ncta/](https://teachcyber.org/ncta/)

**Funding is available for 175 more teachers to enroll in Summer 2025.**



University of Arkansas Little Rock Plan of Study: Foundations of Cybersecurity, Teaching Cybersecurity, Cybersecurity Operations, Advanced Digital Forensics & Incident Response, Privacy Law, Policy & Compliance, Cybersecurity Practicum.  
Contact: Sandra Leiterman, [saleiterman@ualr.edu](mailto:saleiterman@ualr.edu)



Worcester Polytechnic Institute Plan of Study: Fundamentals in Cybersecurity, Introduction to Digital Forensics, Cybersecurity Teaching Methods, Case Studies in Computer Security, Advanced Digital Forensics and Incident Response, and Cybersecurity Capstone.  
Contact: Xiaoyan (Sherry) Sun, [xsun7@wpi.edu](mailto:xsun7@wpi.edu)



DePaul University Plan of Study: Cybersecurity Pedagogy, Foundations of Cybersecurity, Applied Social Engineering, Online M/Disinformation Operations, Human-Center Security, Cybersecurity Practicum.  
Contact: Filipo Sharevski, [fsharevski@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:fsharevski@cdm.depaul.edu)



University of Louisville Plan of Study: Cybersecurity Teaching Methods, Introduction to Cryptography and Information Security, Three selective courses: Introduction to Machine Learning, Software Security, Computer & Cybersecurity, Network Security, Mobile Computing, Database Security, Data Mining, Advanced Cryptography.  
Contact: Leigh Ann Elles, [leigh.elles@louisville.edu](mailto:leigh.elles@louisville.edu)



The University of Arizona Plan of Study: Security Programming, Principles of Cybersecurity, Cyber Law, Ethics and Policy, Traffic Analysis, Zero Trust Defensive Techniques, Special Topics.  
Contact: Paul Wagner, [paulewagner@arizona.edu](mailto:paulewagner@arizona.edu)



Dakota State University Plan of Study: Cyber Leadership and Ethics, Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Computer Programming, Hardware and Networking, Cybersecurity Practicum.  
Contact: Fenecia Homan, [fenecia.homan@dsu.edu](mailto:fenecia.homan@dsu.edu)



University of Maryland Global Campus Plan of Study: Cybersecurity Introduction, Cyber Threats and Analysis, Cybersecurity for Systems and Networks, Cyber Exploitation Methodologies, Digital Forensics and Incident Response, and Cybersecurity Pedagogy.  
Contact: Loyce Pallen, [loyce.pallen@umgc.edu](mailto:loyce.pallen@umgc.edu)

## KINDNESS DAY VOLUNTEERS



We were able to volunteer Saturday December 14 with KIDS Cuddle Closet while they celebrated nearly 250 students from across the county with different activity stations and gifts. Students are nominated by a school nurse or counselor who recognize needs.

A huge thank you to all the school staff who were on site with students from their class or school. It was a busy day, right before winter break, and so many of you went above and beyond to make the holidays brighter for kids.

This year, 35 schools participated in the big day included charter, public, and private schools.

## SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS

The minimum wage in Arizona will increase from \$14.35 to \$14.70 per hour on January 1, 2025.

The Arizona MVD will require an off-road vehicle safety course starting in 2025.

## CLASSROOM BOOKS MINI GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR YUMA

Yuma County Education Service Agency has received funding to purchase classroom books for teachers in our community. We've decided to run this as a mini-grant to ensure that we're supporting as many teachers as possible. Preference will be given to classroom teachers, but any school staff with a need can apply.

### How it works:

1. Fill out the application at <https://forms.gle/c5reHCjWFHrVsSnN9>  
Applications will be responded to in the order they are received, until funds are exhausted.
2. Include your budget, including tax and shipping.
3. If approved, you will purchase the materials and we will reimburse you with proof of receipt.

Why a mini-grant for classroom books? The Burton Family Foundation agrees that fresh books help keep students reading, so they have granted us funds to get books into little hands as quickly as possible.

Have more questions? Please email [Eliana.Osborn@azed.gov](mailto:Eliana.Osborn@azed.gov) for assistance.



## GET SET FOR STEM!



The Arizona Department of Education wants to help teachers "Get SET for STEM!" Our Scholarships for Effective Teachers program offers Arizona educators **\$2,000 per year for up to three years** to pursue coursework or programs that will:

1. Prepare them to add a STEM area (calculus, physics, biology, etc.) or CTE Certificate, **and**
2. Bolster their STEM teaching knowledge & skills

**What's an Applicant's Commitment?** Scholarship recipients agree to teach in Arizona public schools for three years after completing their coursework or program.

**How often are scholarships awarded?** Applications are accepted year-round and scholarships are awarded on a rolling basis. Applications must be submitted prior to enrollment in a program or coursework. Funding is awarded directly to the recipient after submitting paperwork that proves you have enrolled & paid for a course or program.



Visit Academic Achievement on the ADE website and search for "Get Set for Stem" to learn more. Classes in botany, computer science, engineering, technology, middle school math and more qualify.

### View the application at:

[https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2023/07/AZTeacherPDScholarshipAppRevised\\_6.26.23.pdf](https://www.azed.gov/sites/default/files/2023/07/AZTeacherPDScholarshipAppRevised_6.26.23.pdf)

And email it to [tpds@azed.gov](mailto:tpds@azed.gov)