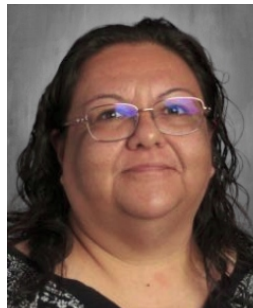
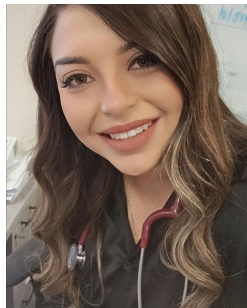




# NEWSLETTER



**Congratulations to August Teachers of the Week!**

**Sylvia Davidson, Iriz Lomeli, Claudia Dym**

**Wellton Elementary, STEDY, Yuma Catholic**

**September  
WRITING CONTEST!**

Write 250 words  
about why someone  
should attend your  
school.

Details: Submit to [eliana.osborn@azed.gov](mailto:eliana.osborn@azed.gov)  
by Monday September 30. Entries must include  
name, grade, school name.  
Prizes! Gift cards for meals will be provided  
to winners in every grade.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE &  
EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY**

## MESSAGE FROM YUMA COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT TOM HURT

Now that school is back in full swing I wish to thank all the school personnel for making the start of the year a success. I have not heard one negative remark regarding the opening of our many schools. The Yuma County Educational Service Agency has many plans for our teachers that wish to participate this fall and spring. Feel free to contact our office if we can assist you with your educational needs.

Have a great year! Our students deserve the best that we can offer them. I am confident that our students have the best faculties and administrators to serve them. Our efforts positively change our students for the future. There is such great honor in watching students progress and achieve great things that would not have happened without teachers.



928-373-1006



210 S. 1st Avenue

## CLASSROOM GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The following grants are open now for interested and creative teachers.

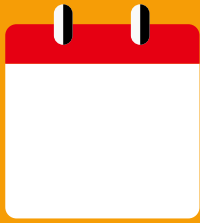
Arizona Council for History Education: Up to \$500  
<https://azhistorycouncil.org/grant-program/>

Arizona Association for Gifted and Talented: Up to \$500  
<https://arizonagifted.org/scholarships/#classroom-grant>

APS Phoenix Suns: Up to \$2500  
<https://www.aps.com/en/About/Community/In-the-Community/Education/APS-Phoenix-Suns-STEM-Teacher-Grants>

Arizona School Boards Association: Up to \$500  
<https://azsba.org/awards/classroom-grants/>

Arizona Beef Council: Up to \$125  
<https://www.arizonabeef.org/resources/classroom-education/beef-up-the-classroom-grant>



## Important Dates

September 9 -- Graphic novelist Jose Pimienta at Yuma Main Library, 5:30

October 2 -- Yuma Community Job and Education Fair at AWC

November 16 -- Science Field Day with AZ Game and Fish

March 8 -- Yuma County Educators Professional Development Day

## COMMUNITY EDUCATOR LEARNING HUB

Over the summer we went through a pilot program with the ASU Community Educator Learning Hub. This is an incredible resource for a wide variety of organizations. There are hundreds of 10 minute interactive courses. Some are geared toward substitute teachers--like what they should do when they arrive at a school. Others are for industry visitors, about planning and how to ask good questions to students. One of my favorites is appropriate for parents about what math looks like in today's classrooms.

If you want to hear more or have questions, please reach out!

### Have you tried the Community Educator Learning Hub?

**Courses are free to Arizonans, available 24/7 and help boost community educators' teaching skills.**

The Community Educator Learning Hub has more than 140 bite-sized nanocourses designed to help families, tutors and other community members help kids learn. The short, memorable and interactive courses come with valuable tips and instruction insights.

#### Why use the Community Educator Learning Hub?

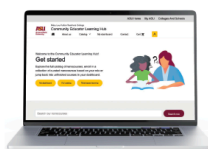
- 140+ nanocourses on topics from mindset to math, literacy to learning basics
- Each interactive course takes just 15 minutes to complete
- Role-based collections available, such as:
  - High-impact tutors
  - Literacy accelerators
  - Parents and home educators
  - School support staff

Check it out for yourself, share it and make it part of how you prepare your community to deepen and personalize learning for all students.

[asucommunityeducators.org](https://asucommunityeducators.org)

Need support? Contact  
[mlfctechops@asu.edu](mailto:mlfctechops@asu.edu)

**ASU** Arizona State University **Teachers College** | Next Education  
Workforce



**Start using the Community  
Educator Learning Hub today  
(and share with others):**



\* Available now through the 2024-25 school year

## ALARMING DATA TREND

NEW DATA from the soon to be released Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injury Report and the also soon to be released Suicide Prevention Coordinator Activity Report (FY2024):

- indicates that professions falling within the occupational coding for 'Educator' experienced the **second highest amount of deaths by suicide of any occupation in Arizona**. The number of deaths by suicide place it as the only occupation in the top 5 for males and females, being number 2 for both genders.
- Current, best reporting from Arizona Department of Education (ADE), establishes 109,333 educators working in and out of the classroom. Calculating the rate per 100,000 for 95 combined male and female Educator deaths by suicide in 2022, the rate of suicide for the Educator occupational category is estimated to be 86.9, the highest occupational rate in Arizona yet established.
- These new data are entirely unexpected, as national data show educators as one of the lowest risks for death by suicide of any occupation. Strategic planning is beginning to address this emergent threat in Arizona."

More information about these findings will be available soon. This is something only being found in Arizona, not nationwide, and is a major concern. Our office will be working with Arizona Department of Health Services and the Arizona Department of Education to see what additional supports can be brought into Yuma County to serve our educators.

**Did you know? You can request training for your school or district from ADE's Effective Teachers and Leaders section? <https://forms.office.com/r/tLL92jKic4>**

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

August 17 we hosted a Mental Health Morning, based on needs expressed from school leaders. Along with speakers, 8 community organizations were present to share information about a variety of topics. If you are interested in further details about training and opportunities, here are the organizations involved that we can connect you with:

- NAMI
- Sunset Health
- Horizon Health
- Catholic Community Services
- Campesinos sin Fronteras
- One in Ten
- Community Life Help
- Child and Family Services



## AZ·ACES·CONSORTIUM

We also focused on Resilient Schools and Trauma Informed Practices with the AZ ACES Consortium. We are considering a new cohort partnership with one local district for training about empowering schools to better support students in need. **If you'd like to learn more, please reach out to Eliana Osborn as we look to the future with this project.**

Read more below, left, about the work they are doing and the need for this kind of training for safe and healthy schools.

### RESILIENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

## CREATING RESILIENT ARIZONA SCHOOLS

#### WHO WE ARE

The Resilience Coordinating Council of AZ supports the wellness of our teachers, staff, and schools to create a happy, healthy, and safe place for our children.

#### WHAT WE DO

- Establish a Baseline of Knowledge for Increasing School & Leadership Development
- Enhance School Employee Wellness
- Establish Funding Mechanisms to Support Resilient Arizona Schools

#### WHY WE DO IT

7% INTENTIONALLY FOCUS ON EVIDENCE-BASED TRAUMA SENSITIVE PRACTICES (44% WOULD LIKE TO DO MORE)

19% HAVE A TRAUMA SENSITIVE ACTION PLAN

25% HAVE DISCIPLINE POLICIES SENSITIVE TO KIDS EXPOSED TO TRAUMA

36% TRAIN STAFF IN SKILLS FOR INTERSECTING W/AND SUPPORTING TRAUMATIZED STUDENTS

96% OF TEACHERS FEEL STRESSED AT WORK

28% OF TEACHERS FEEL SCHOOL LEADERSHIP UNDERSTANDS THEIR STRESS

14% OF TEACHERS FEEL DISTRICT/CHARTER LEADERSHIP UNDERSTANDS THEIR STRESS

For more information, contact [azaces.org/resilient-schools](https://azaces.org/resilient-schools)

#### AREA OF GREATEST NEED

- Educational opportunities for staff on the impact of trauma and science of resilience
- Designated time for peer collaboration to learn and work on Trauma Responsive Practices
- Funding and leadership development to support staff wellness

#### PRIORITY FOCUS

- Improve mental health and well-being to positively impact the retention of all school personnel.
- Greater connectedness among staff to increase sense of safety for staff and students.
- Create learning environments that foster healing and build relationships to improve student learning and reduce chronic absenteeism.

"THE MORE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS A CHILD HAS, THE MORE LIKELY THEY WILL BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM TRAUMA AND THRIVE. RELATIONSHIPS ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE AND THE MOST POWERFUL THERAPY IS HUMAN LOVE."

— BRUCE PERRY, MD

For Crisis Hot line dial 988

## YUMA BASED COHORTS

We have two great opportunities this fall for educators who don't want to leave town for professional quality training. The 18 month Beat the Odds Leadership Academy is getting started, with ten participants who will meet in person once a month and online another time each month.

The last two weekends in September are home to the Arizona Science Center's STaR program--40 hours of science teacher training with a stipend and \$500 in classroom supplies. This session is filled but we hope to offer it again, perhaps over the winter break.

If you have interest in getting staff into either of these programs, please reach out and we'll see how we can help.

SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE & EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY

### Answer our survey!

THANK YOU

<https://forms.gle/BpKKAcM7GJtvhsiA8>

Arizona is facing an opioid overdose epidemic, claiming five lives per day. Among all age groups, Arizona recorded more than 1800 opioid-related deaths and more than 4,000 overdoses in 2023.

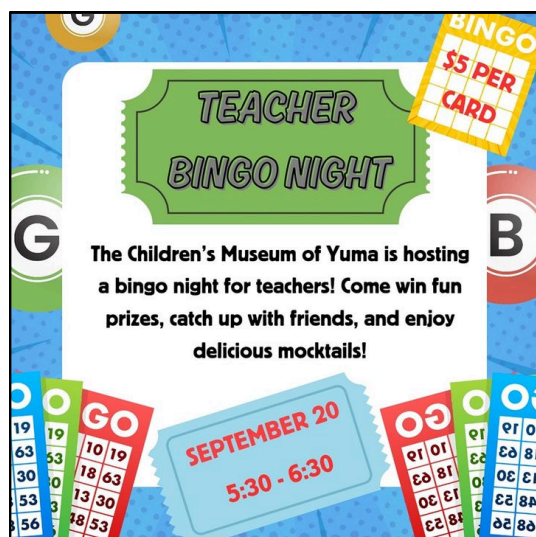
Source: Arizona Department of Education

## OUR TEAM



From left: Elizabeth Valenzuela, Vivian Williams, Tom Hurt, Cristal Kautzer, Eliana Osborn.

## TEACHER FUN NIGHT!



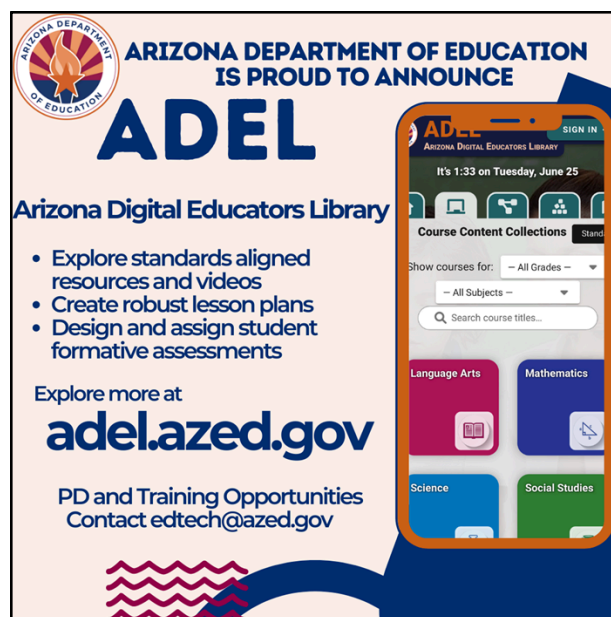
Plan to attend this fun event at the Children's Museum! You can also take a look around and see the fabulous new exhibits. Bingo cards for \$5 and mocktails for \$3.

## ARIZONA DIGITAL EDUCATORS LIBRARY

New from Arizona Department of Education is a vast repository of resources teachers can use in all different subject areas. ADEL is especially great when you need something extra, like reteaching a concept that didn't quite hit the first time. It can take some exploration but we think there's a lot of potential here.

For example, we found a third and fourth grade writing project about pets. There's a full lesson plan, aligned to Arizona Standards, including ideas for scaffolding and extension activities.

If you would like training about using ADEL, let us know and we can bring it to Yuma this school year. There's an additional new portal for easy navigation through state standards, called PAASPORT (yes, with two A's instead of two S's).







# **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE & EDUCATION SERVICE AGENCY**



**Details  
and  
Registration  
on our  
website**

*September*

# **TRAINING AND EVENTS**

**SEPTEMBER 5: ENGLISH LEARNERS**

**SEPTEMBER 5, 4-7: ECONOMICS EDUCATION**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 5:30-7: AUTHOR JOSE PIMIENTA**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 1-4: GIFTED EDUCATION**

**PARENT SESSION 5:30-7**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 4-6: SCIENCE AND LITERACY**

**[WWW.YUMAESA.ORG/EVENTS](http://WWW.YUMAESA.ORG/EVENTS)**