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**Education
Awards
2022**

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Honoring the Best
in Education*



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SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Message from the Scottsdale Unified Superintendent:

It has been three years since we have been able to gather in person to celebrate Scottsdale Unified School District's very best teachers and students. Three years.

Since we last met, every last one of us has had to change our lives in multiple ways, whether we are a charitable community organization like the Scottsdale Charros, a public school district like SUSD, the parents of school-age children, the medically fragile, healthcare professionals, business owners or first responders.

Not since the Great Influenza of 1917-19 have we experienced such a disruptive global pandemic.

During these past two years, we have had to be creative to provide those who depend on us with some semblance of normalcy at a time when everything around us seemed anything but normal.

Rather than throw our hands up in defeat, we have rallied and invented new ways to continue our various callings.

We have built upon an inner strength that we may not have realized existed within us to be able to carry forward with our work. The mission became resilience.

Despite every obstacle thrown in their way, the Scottsdale Charros have parried every possible challenge in order to keep their commitments to our community. What's more, they have made significant, new commitments, such as the Coronado Promise.

Two years in the making, the Coronado Promise is a pledge to



By Dr. Scott Menzel
SCOTTSDALE UNIFIED

SUSD's Coronado Learning Community, its schools, Hohokam, Pima Traditional and Yavapai elementary schools, a soon-to-be refigured middle school at Tonalea, and Coronado High School, and to its students

and their families. That pledge is to support, financially and programmatically, the post-high school aspirations of Coronado graduates by building a pipeline to success that starts early on, in pre-kindergarten, and culminates with scholarship funding for two years of community college or trade school. The Coronado Promise is no small undertaking, but a worthy one for our students who fear disappointment if they dream 'big' and whose families are financially limited.

At the same time, the Charros continue to provide our district and its teachers, students, and schools with other valuable support that includes a variety of scholarships for students and customized grants to support innovative programming in our classrooms.

And if you know anything about

the Charros, they have their 'fun' side, too. The Youth Luncheon and Baseball Clinic for our students returned this month at Scottsdale Stadium, which now features an impressive, new facility that bears the Charros' name.

"Project Prom," the free, prom-attire store created by SUSD Board Member Patty Beckman, was the beneficiary in March of 75 suits donated from Charros' closets.

No matter where you look in our community, you can rest assured that the many good things you observe have more than likely involved the Scottsdale Charros in one way or another, at one time or another.

They immerse themselves in our community selflessly and creatively.

On behalf of a grateful Scottsdale Unified School District, thank you, Scottsdale Charros.



A Message from the 2022 Scottsdale Charros Education Committee Chairman:

I am honored to have the privilege to serve as the Scottsdale Charros Education Chairman for the 2021-22 school year. The Scottsdale Charros have a rich history of supporting education through programs based within the Scottsdale Unified School District and are passionate about strengthening our communities and building a better future for our children.

Through the Charros Education Committee and specifically the Charros Liaison Program, we are able to support all 30 SUSD schools with not only money, but time, or as we call it “boots on the ground.”

We strive to provide financial assistance to the schools for projects, equipment and programs related to the classroom, athletics and infrastructure that are not currently funded through traditional funding streams.

One of the great pillars for any community is the care and education that is provided for its youth, and it is an essential element for the overall quality of life.

A great public education system has an array of benefits for students, faculty, families and the surrounding community, including a connection to the people around you, an increased pride of place and a sense of belonging.

The school facilities not only serve educational purposes, but can act as a hub of activity year round, includ-

ing support of youth athletics and a place to gather for non-profits and volunteer organizations.

The economic benefit of a great public education system is vital, as higher literacy rates develop into higher graduation rates, increasing the human capital in the local community.

For these reasons, the Scottsdale Charros have made a focused and consistent effort to support the Scottsdale Unified School District.

I am very excited to be welcoming everyone back to the Scottsdale Charros Education Awards, in person, for the first time in three years.

The pandemic put a tremendous strain on the way of life that we were all used to and schools were forced to adapt as best as they could because of it.

The great efforts of the teachers, administrators and school staff do not go unnoticed, as our children were able to continue their academic journeys amongst great uncertainty. Thankfully things are starting to feel like our



By Andrew Beardsley
SCOTTSDALE CHARROS

Charros education programs include:

- Scottsdale Charros Education Awards
- Grants for Schools
- Funding for Student Teachers
- Funding for Safe Graduation Celebrations
- Scholarships for Future Teachers
- Scholarships for All-District Athletics
- Scholarships for Public Safety Cadets

“old normal” again, where schools are able to provide a safe, rigorous and fun in-person learning environment where students thrive and can meet their goals of college, career and beyond.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

– Nelson Mandela

THE Charro foundation

The Charro Foundation Mission

The mission of The Charro Foundation is to promote education through scholarships and other educational programming, and to promote youth activities, sports, and cultural enrichment in our community. The Foundation proudly supports this mission by developing programming through partnerships and collaboration with Scottsdale area community organizations.

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2022 Outstanding Teachers



Lindsey Denny
Anasazi Elementary School
2nd Grade



Zosha Darnell
Arcadia High School
World Languages



Steve Millam
Chaparral High School
Physics



Nicole Kaiser
Cherokee Elementary School
4th Grade



Lindsey Saylor
Cheyenne Traditional School
Kindergarten



Tarrin Schultz
Cheyenne Traditional School
Speech-Language Pathologist



Maria Fossler
Chochise Elementary School
Kindergarten



Fred Rabach
Cocopah Middle School
8th Grade Math



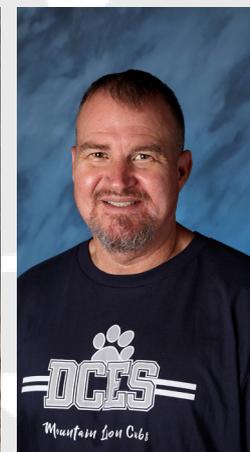
Daniel Chin
Copper Ridge School
Physical Education



Sarah Johnson
Copper Ridge School
Kindergarten



Alexis Smith
Coronado High School
English



Curt Robinson
Desert Canyon Elementary School
2nd Grade



Kelsea Noone
Desert Canyon Middle School
8th Grade Science/6th Grade Math



Liza Noriega
Desert Mountain High School
Dance



Aimee Loterski
Echo Canyon School
5th Grade



Lisa Port
Echo Canyon School
Special Education Learning
Resource Center



Stacey Wojciechowski
Hohokam Elementary School
Title I Pre-K



Amy Parker
Hopi Elementary School
1st Grade



Shalese Doan
Ingleside Middle School
English Language Arts and
Reading Intervention



Elizabeth Gardemann
Kiva Elementary School
Kindergarten



Aimee White
Laguna Elementary School
4th Grade



2022 Outstanding Teachers



Alicia Leung
Mohave Middle School
8th Grade Math, College and Career Enhancement



Ira Pincus
Mountainside Middle School
6th and 7th Grade Language and Literature



Julia Maisel
Navajo Elementary School
5th Grade



Debbie Miller
Pima Traditional School
1st Grade



Kerri Krist
Pueblo Elementary School
1st Grade



Elizabeth Hindenburg
Redfield Elementary School
Special Education Learning Resource Center



Anne Milligan
Saguaro High School
Chemistry



Michelle Rich
Sequoia Elementary School
5th Grade Math and English Language Arts



Maria DeVenuto
Tavan Elementary School
2nd Grade



Madeline Apoon
Tonalea K-8 School
Special Education Learning Resource Center



Allison Hogue
Tonalea K-8 School
Orchestra



Cortney Tagliaferri
Yavapai Elementary School
2nd Grade



Barb Wissmann
Scottsdale Online Learning
High School English and American Sign Language

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The May Family
The Merrill Family
Michelle Michalowski
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Bernadette & Marc Petein
Gabby & Katie Peterson

Lisa & Steve Randall
The Rold Family
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Meredith Russell & Family
Sienna & Sam Sarracino
Kristen Sarracino
Kathie Sarracino
Lisa Schabloski & Pete Seipel
Prescott Smith
Southwest Power Washing

John Spencer
Kim & Rich Tarnopolski
Tyson Development
Eric Viavatte
David Westra
David Wooten

2022 OUTSTANDING SCOTTSDALE STUDENTS



Elsa Steen Koppell
Arcadia High School



Luis Taquillo
Arcadia High School



Kate McDowell
Chaparral High School



Jeremy Lee
Chaparral High School



Marley Lincoln
Coronado High School



Victor De La Torre Guzman
Coronado High School



Erica Keegan
Desert Mountain High School



Jack Yampolsky
Desert Mountain High School



Cydney Lowrie
Saguaro High School



Colin Hutton
Saguaro High School



Rio Trichler
Scottsdale Online Learning

Schubert family spearheads Scottsdale first responder scholarship program

Scottsdale Charros take lead on local first responder support effort

By Terrance Thornton
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Ryan Schubert has a deep admiration for the men and women who have taken the solemn oath to protect and serve the residents of Arizona communities.

Some 20 years ago, the Schubert family set up a college fund for a fallen Phoenix police officer who did not use all the funds, and through the magic of compound interest it grew.

“I’ve always had a deep admiration for first responders and what they do for all of us, day in, day out, often putting their lives at risk for complete strangers and saving countless lives,” Schubert said of what law enforcement means to him. “I have had several friends who are police and firemen, and I truly don’t think I hold any other profession in a higher regard. They define selflessness and are such a critical part of our community.”

Late last year, Schubert, a Scottsdale Charro, brought the dormant college fund to the attention of the philanthropic group’s education committee and plans were devised with former Scottsdale Police Chief and committee member Alan Rodbell to create a law enforcement scholarship fund.

“The young man didn’t end up using all the funds so we have been looking for a way that we could put these dollars to good use,” he said. “It started with the Charro education committee discussing an idea for a Charro law enforcement scholarship and my fellow Charro, retired Police Chief Alan Rodbell, had a great idea to take it further and set up scholarships for both police and fire cadets in Scottsdale.”

Rodbell says it was music to his ears to hear of a new opportunity to support the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

“I thought it was a wonderful idea and a great opportunity for the Charros to support public safety and combine that support with their focus on education,” he said. “An area that the Charros are dedicated to, and famous for supporting.”

Rodbell and Schubert, aware of the significant costs to attending both fire and police cadet programs, have partnered with both the Scottsdale Police and Fire departments.

“The average person has no idea what it costs to become a firefighter or police officer, whether it be certifications or college credits required to become an eligible candidate,” Schubert pointed out.

“The Charros have always been huge supporters of local teachers and students and we felt like this was the perfect fit — a way to show our gratitude to the exceptional people that choose to be a first responders. Any qualified person that wants to pursue this line of work should never be excluded because they can’t afford to meet the basic requirements.”

Support for those who choose to protect

Rodbell reports law enforcement professionals signed onto the effort immediately.

2022 First Responder Scholarship Winners

Drew Hoster
Scottsdale Fire Cadet

Drew Hoster’s father is a firefighter and displayed a love for his job that attracted Drew to the profession. “I feel that my friends, family, and community have done so much for me that it is only right that I give back by spending my time working for a fire department, helping out those in need and doing my best to better my community,” he said.

Adham Rayyes
Scottsdale Police Cadet

Adham Rayyes has wanted to be a police officer as long as he can remember. “With everything going on in the world with police officers, it makes me want to become one even more. I want to be the one to make a difference and make a huge impact on my community,” said Rayyes.



“The Charros have been supporting scholarships for so many years now, the system was already in place. The process only had to be modified to fit an eligibility criteria that was appropriate to the goal,” he explained of the nuts and bolts of the funding mechanism.

“The idea had immediate support from the Charros and buy-in from both Chief Walther of the Scottsdale Police Department and Chief Shannon of the Fire Department. Staff from both departments have worked diligently to bring

Ryan Schubert’s idea to fruition.”

Although there is no formal education requirement that includes a college degree, Rodbell explains, there are hard costs associated with attending any cadet program.

“Many young people struggle with college expenses,” he said. “The opportunities for assistance in these fields are not readily available, and the Charros are helping fill a void. Candidates who are awarded this opportunity will possess the requisite skills and training to enter a career dedicated to pub-



Ryan Schubert
SCOTTSDALE CHARROS

lic service.”

Rodbell explains the rank and file of law enforcement entities across Arizona — with Scottsdale being no exception — need to find the next generation of public servants.

“The timing could not be better,” he said. “So many police and fire personnel are retiring and leaving the professions that the need to fill vacancies is at a critical level. The Scottsdale Charros recognize that need and are actively seeking to fill the gap.”

» See Schubert on page 8



First Responder Support: Moving forward there is a Scottsdale first responder scholarship offering \$1,000 to help cover costs for those attending the respective training academies.

Schubert

Continued From Page 7

A worthy career path

Along with financial support, the scholarship program will also work as a promotional piece about a career in law enforcement, Schubert says.

“My feeling is there are many young folks that may not consider police or fire for a career based on costs and not having the knowledge of what a great line of work it is,” he said.

“We feel that this program will highlight our police and firemen and encourage young men and women within SUSD to consider such a path. It will

also provide opportunity to graduates that may not think it’s a possibility for them based on financial constraints.”

Schubert says he hopes this small first responder scholarship program — today it will be awarded to two Scottsdale cadets every year — can fuel larger outreach efforts.

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Molly Patterson follows passion to teach elementary school children

By Delarita Ford
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Third grade meant a lot to Molly Patterson and even at that young age, she says, she knew she was destined to become a teacher.

The Charros Future Teacher scholarship award being provided to Patterson means a lot to her, she says.

The Desert Mountain High School eleventh grader says she decided to graduate a year early and looks forward to commencement in May. She plans to major in elementary education at Northern Arizona University.

“I learned of this scholarship opportunity when I was in the eighth grade and I was so excited when I had the opportunity to apply.



Molly Patterson

This scholarship will allow me to focus on becoming an elementary school teacher and not

constantly worry about finances and student debt,” Patterson, 17, states.

Grateful to the Charros for helping her pursue her collegiate path, Patterson says she wants to be as welcoming and encouraging to future students as her elementary school teachers were to her during difficult times.

She recalls being influenced by her teachers, namely her third-grade teacher,

who provided a support system for her.

“I want to be a positive role model for my future students and make a difference in their lives,” says Patterson, sharing how her father was diagnosed with an incurable, debilitating disease when she was in elementary school.

“My teachers provided me with a safe space to share my raw feelings and allowed me to feel supported as his diagnosis was very difficult for me to understand at such a young age. My teachers’ support during this difficult time meant so much to me and their impact on my life has not dulled.

I want to go into teaching

» See Patterson on page 9

Yee strives to become a physical education teacher

By Delarita Ford
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Christopher “Chris” G. Yee, a Saguaro High School senior, is a recipient of the Charros Future Teacher Scholarship and wants to coach students, inspiring them to not give up.

Yee, 18, recalls an educational trip to Ecuador where he volunteered to construct a school cafeteria in a remote, poor community while learning about the culture. He remembered the manual labor and the lessons learned that contributed to some of the reasons why he wanted to be a teacher.

“The community and



Christopher Yee

school were so far away that the teachers had to live on site. We learned how to

bend rebar to help support columns. We hauled rocks to the cafeteria location to prepare for the slabs and foundation concrete pours. We helped carry water from the river to the living quarters,” wrote Yee in his winning essay. “Even though they were in a tough situation, they were still willing to learn no

matter the condition. This was inspiring to me because it changed my view on education. The thought of them having nothing, but still willing to learn, stayed with me.”

He also learned about teamwork, which transcended into his athletic endeavors from volleyball to track. Yee mentions the fun he had in sports as another reason for him wanting to be a coach.

“I also want to be instrumental in encouraging and inspiring students to be the best they can. No matter what obstacles they face, ‘Keep going and never give up, there’s

» See Yee on page 9

Patterson

Continued From Page 8

to be just like them and have this great of an impact on my future students.”

The granddaughter of an elementary school teacher, she wants to follow her passion for helping children like her grandmother and “cannot wait to have a positive impact on them just like my elementary school teachers had on me.”

In her winning essay, she notes how her grandmother taught third grade for 25 years and described the difference her grandmother made on oth-

ers when former students attended the grandmother’s funeral two years ago.

“Her past students, introducing themselves to me and sharing stories of how my grandmother impacted their lives for the better, solidified my decision to pursue a career as an elementary school teacher,” says Patterson in the essay.

“In my Charros Future Teacher scholarship essay I opened with, ‘When most people think of a teacher they tend to think about someone that helps you learn how to read, write, and multiply but when I think of a teacher I think of so

much more. I think of a person that has the ability to change one’s life and have a profound positive impact on their students for years to come.”

A member of the Desert Mountain High School National Honor Society and DHMS Physics Club, Patterson has also participated in student government, high school volleyball, and the 2021 St. Jude Leadership Society.

She even works part time to help her family that consists of her mother, Genny, father, Jeff, siblings and a rescue dog, “Honey.”

Yee

Continued From Page 8

always a way,” Yee said. “What better way to fulfill both these goals than becoming a teacher?”

Reflecting on individual and team accomplishments, Yee noted the importance of communication. He answered the following questions:

Why did you seek the scholarship and how did you know about it?

I learned about the scholarship through my high school’s college and career center. Having this scholarship will help

me reach my goal of becoming an educator.

What college/university are you pursuing?

I will be pursuing Arizona State University.

Why do you want to be a teacher?

I want to be a teacher to educate students about teamwork, self-confidence and health.

What do you want to teach and why?

I want to teach physical education because it is important for students to stay healthy and experience different sports at different stages of their lives.

What will make you a stand-

out teacher?

I am hoping to make my class a fun and welcoming class where students will want to attend everyday.

Who is your role model? My role model is my AP World History teacher, Mr. Crose, because he cares for all of his students and their academic futures.

What does your family consist of (parents, siblings, pets, etc.)? My family consists of my mom, dad and older brother.

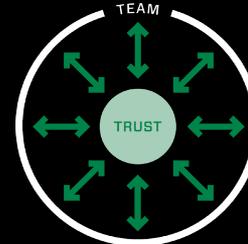
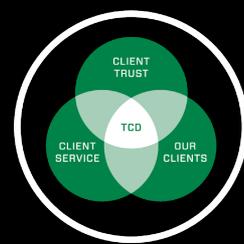
What are your hobbies? My hobbies are playing volleyball and running track.



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EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

By Caroline Yu
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Coming from an established career in the hospitality industry, the Scottsdale Community College Educator of the Year has been inspired by her students to continue her career in the field of education.

Janelle Hoffman, professor and director of Scottsdale Community College's hospitality and tourism management program, never expected that she would find herself in a teaching position, much less for 20 years.

"It was my experience as an adjunct instructor that really motivated me, and that was the relationship with the students," Hoffman said.

Unlike other educators, being a teacher was not a lifelong passion for her. Before becoming an adjunct professor, Hoffman worked full-time in the hotel industry for 15 years, dealing with sales and marketing.

Bringing her expertise in the world of hospitality, Hoffman teaches around five classes covering marketing and facilities man-

agement, which vary semester to semester. Some courses she teaches include hotel and restaurant management as well as tourism development.

"In our program for the full-time faculty, we each teach courses that we have actual hands-on work experience from, which I think is a benefit to the students," she said.

Given her experience in the field, Hoffman employs the lessons she's learned to further student education. Her approach to learning is driven by her students and she takes great care in accommodating them all.

When teaching, Hoffman pays special attention to student learning styles. At SCC, the student population is diverse, especially in terms of age. In the classroom, there may be

students ranging 18 to 40 years old and even beyond.

"It does make teaching a little more complicated when you're not teaching all the same types of people," she said.

However this doesn't deter Hoffman, and considering online learning-related difficulties, she believes it's about maintaining a fine balance between using new technologies and developing relationships with students.

Throughout her almost 20 years at SCC, Hoffman has continued to be driven by the students she works with. Speaking of her experiences, she discussed several instances where her students made her aware of the impact she had on their academic careers.

In one particular story, a group of students was struggling with their accounting course and were prepared to drop it. However, after Hoffman's words of encouragement and support for the course, the group powered through and were able to pass the class.

"They graduated together and to

Janelle Hoffman awarded Scottsdale Community College Educator of the Year



Janelle Hoffman
SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



this day, every once in a while on Instagram or Facebook or something like that, they make fun of that story," she said.

Even though she thinks of the memory in jest, it speaks to the lasting effects of Hoffman's teaching skills and her commitment to her students.

When Hoffman discovered she had been named SCC Educator of the Year, it came as quite a surprise to her. She was not aware that she

had been nominated to begin with and her initial reaction made her wonder if the email she received was correct.

"I think there are other people that are more deserving, or at least equally deserving," Hoffman said. "We all worked really hard over these last couple years."

What she thinks made her a potential candidate was how she developed her relationships with her students while classes were online. Pre-pandemic, there were roughly 165 students in the hospitality program, however, Hoffman noted that enrollment is currently lower in comparison to previous years.

No matter the number, Hoffman made a point to call all of the hospitality students throughout the semester to do a wellness check and to offer them a shoulder to lean on during those troubling times.

"Hospitality, the whole focus of our program, is taking care of other people and being of service to them," Hoffman said.



1-on-1 with 2022 Banquet Chairman John Arnold

By Terrance Thornton
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Awelcome back to the educator community at the Scottsdale Unified School District is a major theme for the 35th Annual Scottsdale Charros Education Banquet.



John Arnold
SCOTTSDALE CHARROS



Scottsdale Charro John Arnold, who helmed this year's banquet, sat down with the Independent Newsmedia to discuss his dedication to quality public education. This is what he had to say:

***Welcoming outstanding educators and students at SUSD is a central theme for this year's banquet. What does it mean to you to be able to bring this event back to in-person?**

After having our 2020 event canceled and our 2021 event a virtual only affair, reigniting this event to an in-person gathering means the world to the Scottsdale Charros. Seeing the excitement and pride on the faces and in the eyes of our best teachers and students is immeasurable. We could not be more proud to host this event for the 35th time.

***What is the No. 1 thing you hope members of the SUSD community take away from attending this event?**

My hope is that the SUSD community knows and feels that what they do matters. They should feel special, because they are. They are the best in Scottsdale and some of the best in America. They should be celebrated as such.

***How do you think a great local public education system can be a benefit to the surrounding community?**

Having a strong public school system is critical to a thriving community. Giving every child an "on ramp" to reaching the American dream is something Scottsdale has always done.

***As a Scottsdale Charro what does it mean to be a steward of quality public education here in Scottsdale?**

It is a job we do not take lightly. We are honored to be thought of this way by the citizens of Scottsdale. Being an advocate for the teachers and students of SUSD is one of the reasons why I decided to run for the Arizona State house in the 2022 election.

***Serving this year as banquet chairman, what are you looking forward to most this year at the event?**

I am excited about being able to bring everyone back together after 2 years apart and celebrate the accomplishments of all of these great teachers and students.

***What makes the educators at SUSD special in your opinion?**

SUSD teachers are so spe-

cial because of their unwavering support of the students. Teaching through the Pandemic has been a massive challenge and our teachers stepped up and took that challenge head on.

***The Coronado Promise is a major milestone for both the district and Scottsdale Charros. Why is this program so critical to the future success of public education here in Scottsdale?**

We couldn't be more excited to help guide the Coronado Promise to reality. Every student and family in the Coronado complex will now know that the community has rallied together to ensure those students will have post-secondary education opportunities, regardless of their economic situation.

The Burgess Law Group is proud to support the Scottsdale Charros' Annual Education Awards Banquet



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Scottsdale Charros focus efforts on a promise of prosperity

By Terrance Thornton
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

Offering a solid foundation for equitable access to public education, a paramount focus of The Charro Foundation, is at the core of the Coronado Promise program, according to Scottsdale Charro Andrew Beardsley, who serves as this year's education chairman.

"I have high hopes for the Coronado Promise scholarship can continue on its path to helping more and more students each year, as it has grown from helping a few individuals annually to now offering scholarships for up to 30 students in 2022," he said.

"Rob Flick and the Flick Family Foundation's generous \$1 million donation is evidence of the virtue and support found in the Coronado community, and I believe there are more out there willing to contribute. With the continued efforts of the great team behind the Prom-

ise, coupled with an inspired local community, I'm hopeful we see those numbers continue to rise each and every year."

Beardsley points out an ongoing effort of the Charros is to recognize the excellence in local education but now with the Promise program the philanthropic outfit is seeking to help build up students at the high school level.

"The Scottsdale Charros have a rich history of supporting education through programs based within the Scottsdale Unified School District, and are passionate about strengthening our com-

munities and building a better future for our children, The Coronado Promise is a better future for our children. For that simple reason, we as Scottsdale Charros are committed to utilizing our organizational expertise to oversee the fidelity of the program funds, raise and manage funds to support the Promise scholarship, and raise visibility and excitement of improvements in the Coronado Learning Community.

For more than 60 years, the Scottsdale Charros have been steadfast in the pursuit of supporting public education



CHAMPIONS OF A PROMISE: From left are Scottsdale Unified School District Governing Board member Patty Beckman; Dennis Robbins of the Scottsdale Charros; and Karen Beckvar, executive director of the Coronado Foundation for the Future.

through being the "boots on the ground" through positive community impact.

"A great public education system has an array of benefits for students, faculty, families and the surrounding community, including a connection to the people around you, an increased pride of place, and

a sense of belonging," he said.

"The school facilities not only serve educational purposes, but can act as a hub of activity year round, including support of youth athletics, and a place to gather for non-profits and volunteer organizations. The economic benefit of a great public edu-

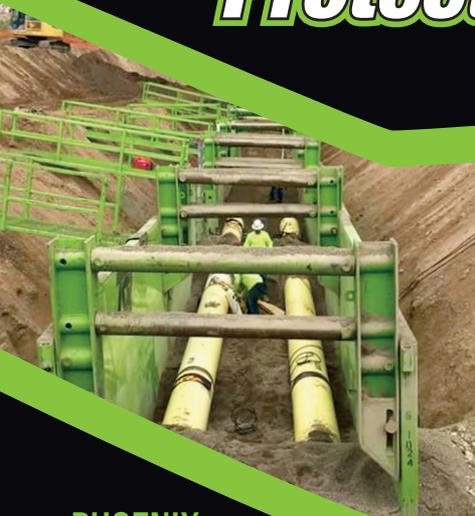
cation system is vital, as higher literacy rates develop into higher graduation rates, increasing the human capital in the local community."

A Promise For Prosperity

More than 100 members of the Coronado Learning
» See Promise on page 13

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Promise

Continued From Page 12

Community gathered to celebrate the launch of the Coronado Promise last February bringing to fruition a scholarship program at Coronado High School.

Describing how “life is a journey,” was Scottsdale Mayor David Ortega, who likened education to “the pot of gold,” necessary for success.

“My own experiences started here on this campus mentoring students,” he explained while speaking in the courtyard of Coronado High School with a mural made famous by two beloved *Wyld Stallions*.

“Through this journey, we have come to a point where we are at with the Coronado Promise... Eager student may have the obstacle of funding hurdles they cannot overcome. This promise is something that will elevate our city as a whole.”

Elevation is possible as community leaders and representatives have pledged a partnership to make higher learning attainable for Coronado High School students by set-

ting a community goal through the Coronado Promise to provide a tuition-free scholarship for the first two years at a Maricopa Community College or trade school.

Furthermore, the Promise Pathway program, which supports additional needs of K-12 students in the Coronado Learning Community.

The promise includes additional support necessary to prepare for higher learning, which entails students receiving more academic and social-emotional support along with college and career readiness skills throughout elementary, middle, and high school.

Over the past two years, it was no small coalition of effort as community representatives involved to make the Promise come to fruition, include:

- the Coronado Foundation for the Future;
- the Scottsdale Charros;
- the Scottsdale Community College;
- Coronado High School;
- Scottsdale Schools; and
- Municipal officials.

Dennis Robbins, executive director at the Scottsdale Charros, is acutely aware of the situations facing some of the children attending Scottsdale Schools.

“The students of Coronado High School are working hard, often carrying the weight of their family’s expectations to become the first person to attend college or other advanced education,” he said.

“We support and encourage that ambition and want to help ease their path, removing as many obstacles inhibiting their success as we can.”

Robbins points out it will take a community effort to help give a handout to an entire high school population.

“Help us light a fire in the hearts of our Coronado students,” he said. “Help us make sure our Coronado seniors are ready for college or trade school education. Help us provide scholarships so that finances are not a barrier to a better life.”

Getting down to the brass tax of the value of a quality primary education is a vital ingredient to a thriving community people want to be a part of --- not move away from.

“If we want to send 100 seniors to college, we need \$500,000 per year. If we want to ensure these students are college ready, we need additional counselors, social workers, reading specialists, and math specialists,” he said of the hard costs behind the Promise endeavor.

“To adequately staff these positions, we need \$700,000 per year. In addition, we need additional summer programs like JUMP START, we want a robust mentorship program, and measurement tools to chart our course and improve our programs and services. This will cost an additional \$200,000 per year,” he said.

Robbins is blunt when it comes to getting this thing done.

“Hope is not a plan. We have a plan. We have a need,” he said.

The Inception

The Coronado Foundation for the Future began the Coronado Promise Scholarship in 2019 after providing “Service above Self” scholarships for 10 years with money donated by the Papago Rotary Club in 2008. Help for a single student in 2009 has re-



Our Coronado students and community are most deserving of the support this promise scholarship will provide. With this commitment and promise, we are investing in our students — our future,”

— Amy Palatucci, Coronado High School principal

portedly grown to supporting 15 students in 2021 and about 20 students in 2022.

The Coronado Promise Partners, led by the Scottsdale Charros, aims to raise \$150,000 to support more than 30 Coronado High School graduates each year.

“This promise is near and dear to my heart not only because the students of Coronado benefit from this program, but also because growing up in Pittsburgh, I saw the positive impact the Pittsburgh Promise had on the community. Coronado students are the future leaders of tomorrow and deserve every opportunity to succeed. Our Coronado students and community are most deserving of the support this promise scholarship will provide. With this commitment and promise, we are investing in our students — our future,” said Coronado High School Principal Amy Palatucci.

Fulfilling the promise and dreams of deserving students was something Coronado Alumnus Rob (CHS 1971) and Jennifer Flick set out to do, pledging \$1 million to support the program upon learning about the Coronado Promise Scholarship.

The Flick Family Foundation

The Flick Family Foundation has committed to \$50,000 per year for the next 10 years in scholarship funds and will match dollar-for-dollar additional funds raised for the program up to \$50,000 per year for 10 years.

“The Coronado Foundation for the

Future has been committed to the students at Coronado High School for 20 years. Getting to know our scholarship students through their applications, interviews, and as we follow them through their education journey is what makes it all worthwhile.

To provide funding to every Coronado High School graduate who desires to pursue Scottsdale Community College, any Maricopa Community College or career/trade degree/certification would be incredible. Without the incredible gift from the Flick Family Foundation and our partners at the Scottsdale Charros who will expand our fundraising capabilities to meet the matching fund challenge, the expansion of this scholarship program would have taken many more years. We are grateful for all the Coronado Promise Partners who are working together to fulfill our vision for the Coronado Promise,” stated Beckvar.

Remembering when he attended Coronado High School, about 50 years ago, Flick said how happy he was to provide to funds to help students go to school.

“I really believe in education. My parents could not have afforded to send me to college. I could not have gone on to college without a full ride,” he said, noting his experience at the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

“My goal is to not have 25 scholarships, but 100 scholarships a year and then we will try to get other schools to follow along in our path.”



INCREDIBLE SUPPORT: Robert Flick of the Flick Family Foundation talks about how quality public education propelled him to both personal and professional success.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES: *Steadfast & Humble*

The Scottsdale Charros have a rich history of supporting education through programs for Scottsdale schools, as well as education and youth programs delivered through community-based nonprofits.

The Charros proudly support the teachers and students Scottsdale Unified School District and Scottsdale Community College through a variety of initiatives, investing both dollars and time.

Learn more at Charros.com.

Future Teacher Scholarships

The Future Teacher Scholarship was established by The Charro Foundation to encourage high school seniors in SUSD to pursue a career as a teacher.

Each year, two \$20,000 four-year scholarships are awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding achieve-

ment in academic activities, as well as non-academic activities, during their high school years.

Scottsdale Community College Scholarships

The Scottsdale Charros have been proud supporters of SCC since the school's inception in the 1960s. In the spring of 2015, the first Charro Foundation Scottsdale Community College Scholarship was created. This \$5,000 two-year scholarship is awarded to an SUSD high school graduate who is attending Scottsdale Community College.

National Board Certification Scholarships

In partnership with the Arizona K12 Center, The Charro Foundation supports educators pursuing distinction through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) by offering \$1,425 scholarships to cover the cost of the first three

of the four components required for completion of the National Board Certification process

Education And Liaison Grants

The Charro Education and Liaison Grants provide financial assistance from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to SUSD schools for projects, equipment, and programs related to the classroom, athletics, or infrastructure that are not currently funded through traditional funding streams.

Project Graduation

The Scottsdale Charros have supports Project Graduation events in SUSD schools to help provide a safe event on graduation night free from alcohol, drugs, and late-night driving.

Each year, five schools benefit from \$2,000 scholarships to help fund their events.

The Charros will not fund costs for trips outside of Arizona such as Disneyland or Six Flags.



CORONADO PROMISE: Dr. Scott Menzel, superintendent at the Scottsdale Unified School District, addresses the crowd at the public launch of the Coronado Promise at Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Ave.

Parada del Sol raises funds for Scottsdale Education Initiatives

Annual beloved event, now under the wing of the Scottsdale Charros

The 68th annual Parada del Sol and Trail's End Festival returned to Old Town Scottsdale on Feb. 5, after a 1-year hiatus.

The Scottsdale community's history comes alive when its western heritage is on display.

The streets of Old Town Scottsdale welcome more than 30,000 SPECTATORS as nearly 150 parade entries march down Scottsdale Road.

The Charros are proud to have ridden in the parade for more than 50 years and now

host the event with a dedicated committee of community members.

This event is just one of the ways The Scottsdale Charros raise funds to support youth programs, educational scholarships, and grants to local charities.



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