



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TUCSON VALUES TEACHERS PRESENTED THE APRIL TEACHER
EXCELLENCE AWARD TO JANET VARELA**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) presented the April Teacher Excellence Award today to Janet Varela, a preschool teacher at Tully Magnet Elementary School. Varela, who has been teaching for 21 years, has been at Tully for the past decade.

Varela has a passion for teaching kids with special needs and currently teaches an in-person inclusive preschool class at Tully. Varela was nominated by Yvette Rodriguez, a parent of two of her former students.

In the nominating statement, Rodriguez said, “Ms. Janet is a true advocate and huge asset to the early childhood special needs community. She taught my twins the early childhood skills needed to help their development. She taught me how to advocate and to not be afraid to speak up to ensure my twins are always given the support to meet their full potential like everyone else.”

Tucson Values Teachers spotlights quality Southern Arizona teachers every month. Teachers are nominated through Tucson Values Teachers’ website by colleagues, students, friends, and other community members. Winners of the Teacher Excellence Award receive \$250 cash courtesy of Helios Education Foundation, a \$100 gift card for classroom materials, and flowers.

More information about the Teacher Excellence Award can be found at www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org.

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Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) is a business and education partnership focused on helping schools and districts attract, retain and support the very best teachers for every PreK-12 classroom in Southern Arizona. The organization recognizes the critical role teachers play in student achievement and the vital influence they have on Tucson’s future. It does this work by raising public awareness of the value of the teaching profession while providing programs that benefit teachers economically and professionally. For more information and to support TVT, visit tucsonvaluesteachers.org or call (520) 327-7619.