



**Media Advisory
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, April 15, 2019

Contact: Katie Rogerson, Chief Operating Officer, 520-327-7619

**TEACHING IN ARIZONA WINS BEST ARIZONA SHORT FILM AT
2019 PHOENIX FILM FESTIVAL**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers' documentary short film, TEACHING IN ARIZONA, made its film festival premiere at the 2019 Phoenix Film Festival. The film, which was featured in the shorts program during the Festival, was awarded the Best Arizona Short Film. The Phoenix Film Festival was held April 4-14 at Harkins Scottsdale 101 in Phoenix and is the state's largest film festival, attracting more than 27,000 attendees every year.

TEACHING IN ARIZONA, produced by Tucson Values Teachers, follows three Southern Arizona teachers to deliver an intimate portrait of what it's really like to be a teacher today. Filmmaker Lisa Molomot spent eight months in 2018 following the teachers, documenting the realities of teaching. Teachers featured in the film include:

- Tia Lei Tsosie-Begay, 4th grade teacher at Los Niños Elementary School in Sunnyside Unified School District;
- Nathaniel Rios, history and government teacher at Flowing Wells High School in Flowing Wells Unified School District; and
- Janet Acree, math specialist at AmeriSchools Academy of Tucson.

Screenings of TEACHING IN ARIZONA have been held across the state since its premiere on Sept. 20, 2018 at the Tucson Convention Center as part of Tucson Values Teachers' Let's Talk Ed event. A list of upcoming screenings, along with information on how the public can request to host their own local screening, is available at the film's official website. The film was also selected for the inaugural Arcosanti International Film Carnivale and will be screened during that event on Saturday, April 27.

More information about the project, including a two-minute trailer of the film, resources, and a viewing guide and toolkit, can be found at www.teachinginarizonafilm.org.

###

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 K-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.