



Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 7, 2021

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

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers (TVT) surprised five local educators this week with the Teacher Excellence Award. As a special edition of the award for Teacher Appreciation Week, Tucson Values Teachers asked students to submit video nominations. More information on the winning teachers and the student-submitted video nominations can be found [here](#).

Teachers who received the Teacher Excellence Award this week include:

- **Ganesh Tiwari:** Science teacher at Nogales High School in Nogales Unified School District. He was nominated by Adrian Velazquez-Martinez.
- **Kylie Baker:** Kindergarten teacher at Manzanita Elementary School in Catalina Foothills School District. She was nominated by Elizabeth Sipe.
- **Mayra Ruiz:** 2nd grade teacher at Hollinger K-8 School in Tucson Unified School District. She was nominated by several of her students.
- **Jim Mentz:** PE teacher at Palo Verde High School in Tucson Unified School District. He was nominated by several of his students.
- **Lauren Ochoa:** 8th grade science teacher at Dove Mountain CSTEM K-8 in Marana Unified School District. She was nominated by Syed Batiz.

Winning teachers received flowers, \$250 cash courtesy of [Helios Education Foundation](#), a \$100 gift card to Office Depot, and a TVT tumbler and face mask.

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.