



**Press Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**RAYTHEON LEADERS IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

TUCSON, Ariz. — Tucson Values Teachers and Raytheon Company announced today the winners of the fourth annual Raytheon Leaders in Education Award. Three local teachers were selected as the recipients and will be honored at Tucson Values Teachers’ Stand Up 4 Teachers ceremony, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019 at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The Raytheon Leaders in Education Award program recognizes and rewards Pima County teachers in grades K-12 who are achieving outstanding classroom performance, demonstrating leadership in their schools and communities, and supporting their peers in a committed teacher workforce.

Through a rigorous evaluation process, judges selected three awardees from among nine finalists. Raytheon will award the three winners separate \$2,500 gifts, plus an additional \$2,500 in matching gifts to each of the teacher’s respective schools, for a total of \$15,000. The award recipients will meet with local business and political leaders over the next year to share success stories and find common ground in advocating for advancements in education.

“A key part of creating a culture of change within education is to highlight the contributions and professionalism of educators in Pima County,” said Katie Rogerson, Chief Operations Officer of Tucson Values Teachers. “The Raytheon Leaders in Education Award showcases some of our top teachers and we’re excited to not only honor those educators but share their dedication with businesses and community members.”

In addition to honoring the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award winners and finalists, Stand Up 4 Teachers will also feature the presentation of the Spirt of Education Award, recognizing the contributions of Freeport-McMoRan and Pima Federal Credit Union. Individual tickets are available for purchase. A limited number of free tickets for teachers are also available, thanks to local business sponsorships.

Tucson Values Teachers’ Chief Executive Officer, Andy Heinemann, said, “We value our partnership with Raytheon and the commitment they make every year to honoring and recognizing the very best educators we have in our community. Southern Arizona businesses know the importance of a strong teacher workforce for our community and Tucson Values Teachers is pleased to highlight those companies that are putting education first, including Raytheon, Freeport-McMoRan, and Pima Federal Credit Union.”

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**2019 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award winners:**

**Zachary Kadera**, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Elvira Elementary School, Sunnyside Unified School District

**Jackie Nichols**, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School, Sunnyside Unified School District

**Larissa Peru**, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Desert View High School, Sunnyside Unified School District

**2019 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award finalists:**

**Grades K-5**

- Lindsey Anderson, Esmond Station K-8 School, Vail Unified School District
- Latricia Ferguson, Cottonwood Elementary, Vail Unified School District

**Grades 6-8**

- Elizabeth Shaw, Rincon Vista Middle School, Vail Unified School District
- Ivy Sweeney, Marana Middle School, Marana Unified School District

**Grades 9-12**

- Ellen Kirkbride, Flowing Wells High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District
- Daniel Schneider, Amphitheater High School, Amphitheater Public Schools

*Editor's note: Attached are photos of the three Raytheon Leaders in Education Award winners. Photo credit Nicci Radhe.*

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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 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](http://tucsonvaluesteachers.org) or call (520) 327-7619.