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## For Immediate Release

### **Raytheon Leaders in Education Awards to honor three Pima County teachers**

TUCSON, Ariz., (Sept. 17, 2018) — Raytheon Company's (NYSE: RTN) Missile Systems business will honor three local teachers with the company's third annual Leaders in Education Awards at the Let's Talk Ed event on Sept. 20, from 5-7 p.m. at the Tucson Convention Center.

The Leaders in Education 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.

"Students thrive best in the classroom when there's a talented teacher at the helm; that's why we're honoring and rewarding some of our community's best educators," said Jon Kasle, Raytheon Missile Systems Communications vice president. "Raytheon remains steadfast in its commitment to foster student interest in math and science, and we need exceptional educators to help make that happen."

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 teachers and their respective schools, for a total of \$15,000. The teachers 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.

"Recognizing exceptional educators for the leadership, professionalism, dedication and passion that they bring to their classrooms and students every day is at the heart of Tucson Values Teachers' mission," said Katie Rogerson, chief operating officer of Tucson Values Teachers.

In addition to honoring the three awardees, the Let's Talk Ed event will celebrate Tucson Values Teachers' 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and feature a documentary short film about the realities of teaching in Arizona. Tickets and

more information are available at <http://www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org>. Event proceeds benefit Tucson Values Teachers.

#### 2018 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award winners:

**Nicole (Niki) Tilicki**, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4th grade teacher, Innovation Academy, Amphitheater Public Schools. Tilicki has a master's degree in education from the University of Phoenix, and a bachelor's degree in arts from the University of Arizona. She has been teaching for 26 years and started a *Genius Hour*, a tool to inspire students to investigate their interests, collaborate on solutions and inspire achievement. Her students' *Genius Hour* projects have garnered accolades from the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation, or SARSEF. Tilicki serves on the University of Arizona's Math Educators Appreciation Day steering committee and presents math activities and curriculum at their annual conferences.

**Patricia Vogel**, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade engineering teacher, Mansfeld STEM Magnet Middle School, Tucson Unified School District. Vogel has a master's degree in education from Concordia University and a bachelor's degree in science education from the University of Arizona. She earned a prestigious STEM teaching fellowship from the University of Notre Dame, and collaborates with educators from across the country to make STEM learning accessible for all students. Vogel facilitates professional development workshops for teachers to integrate the *Engineering is Everywhere* program into her district, and is involved with the University of Arizona's Women in Science and Engineering, or WISE, program. She's been teaching for four years.

**Andrew Lettes**, Pueblo High School, Tucson Unified School District. Lettes has a Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of California, Los Angeles and has taught biology and bioscience/biotechnology for 24 years. He pioneered the biotechnology program at Pueblo High School that has drawn over 1,000 students since its inception. More than 2,000 dual enrollment students have earned at least three credits through the program at the University of Arizona over the past 6 years. Lettes was awarded the Governor's Celebration of Innovation Teacher of the Year in 2014.

#### 2018 Raytheon Leaders in Education Award finalists:

##### Grades K-6

- Cynthia Dancil, Vail Academy and High School, Vail Unified School District
- Georgina Georgelos, Mary Belle McCorkle Academy of Excellence, Tucson Unified School District

##### Grades 7-8

- Patrick Kelly, Paulo Freire Freedom School, City Center for Collaborative Learning
- Jackie Nichols, Billy Lane Lauffer Middle School, Sunnyside Unified School District

##### Grades 9-12

- Bridget Montoya, Flowing Wells High School, Flowing Wells Unified School District
- Elyse Wexler, Sahuaro High School, Tucson Unified School District

#### About Tucson Values Teachers

Tucson Values Teachers, or TVT, is a regional initiative determined to engage the Southern Arizona community in not just talking about the importance of education, but also taking action to attract, retain and support teachers. The organization recognizes the critical role teachers play in student achievement and the vital influence they have on Tucson's future. For more information and to support TVT, visit [tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://tucsonvaluesteachers.org) or call (520) 327-7619.

### **About Raytheon**

Raytheon Company, with 2017 sales of \$25 billion and 64,000 employees, is a technology and innovation leader specializing in defense, civil government and cybersecurity solutions. With a history of innovation spanning 96 years, Raytheon provides state-of-the-art electronics, mission systems integration, C5I™ products and services, sensing, effects, and mission support for customers in more than 80 countries. [Raytheon](#) is headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts. Follow us on [Twitter](#).