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## **Tucson Values Teachers Celebrates “Five in Ten” Milestones**

*Tucson Values Teachers programs have engaged more than 7,000 teachers and community leaders and led the flow of greater than half a million dollars into Tucson classrooms to date in 2016*

**TUCSON, AZ.(Oct. XX, 2016)** —Tucson educators are reaping the benefits of greater community engagement and recognition of the challenges facing Southern Arizona teachers, according to figures released by Tucson Values Teachers (TVT).

TVT announced its “Five in Ten” milestones, the five major successful initiatives executed by the organization in the past 10 months. Each has had a tangible effect in the classroom at a time when teachers don’t feel valued, respected or fairly compensated, according to a 2015 study of Arizona teachers by TVT, the University of Arizona Eller College of Management, and Southern Arizona Leadership Council.

1. The Vote 4 Education initiative, a partnership with Expect More Arizona, is underway in **five school districts** in Pima County – Marana, Tucson Unified, Sahuarita, Sunnyside, and Vail – and will engage **5,000 educators** in three election cycles in 2016. Disproving the myth that teachers don’t vote, early results show teachers vote **28%** higher than Pima County voters and **34%** higher than Arizona voters statewide.
2. **106 teachers** submitted applications for the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award, a new annual tribute to elevate professionalism and leadership in teaching with a **\$15,000** sustaining commitment from Raytheon Company. The “**Circle of Excellence**,” founded and supported by Raytheon and TVT, includes the initial cadre of nine teacher leaders who have been honored with the Raytheon Leaders in Education Award.
3. Teachers in Industry, a partnership with the UA College of Education, had its largest enrollment this year with **52 teachers** at **28 industries** throughout the state. Teachers learn real-world experience for their classrooms, and paid industry positions brought more than **\$450,000** into participating teacher households this summer.
4. TVT’s annual school supply drive, Tucson Supplies Teachers, together with Pima Federal Credit Union and other partners, delivered gift cards directly to **1,280 Southern Arizona teachers**, providing funds to assist with classroom supplies.

In 2016, the total of donated gift cards reached **\$64,000**; since inception, Tucson Supplies Teachers has delivered nearly **\$835,000** in supplies and assistance.

5. **580** business leaders, teachers, and education supporters attended the inaugural LET'S TALK ED event. The event and the statewide teacher survey that spurred the event generated **11 news stories in Tucson, Phoenix and Southern Arizona**. The monthly *Let's Keep Talking Ed* newsletter continues the conversation around the K-12 teacher workforce crisis, engaging approximately **3,000 monthly readers**.

Each initiative is forward-looking but has immediate benefits for teachers, as well, according to Marian Salzman, executive chairman of TVT. "The long term goal of TVT is to create an environment that values educators and the role they play in our society, and in the short term, that means putting money in teachers' wallets and beginning the conversations that result in action now," Salzman said. "The teacher workforce is truly at crisis point in Arizona, but we wanted to show how much can be accomplished in just ten short months when community, business and education leaders work together."

#### ***About Tucson Values Teachers***

*Tucson Values Teachers is a regional initiative determined to prove that the southern Arizona community should not just talk about the importance of improving education but also unify in action to retain, recruit and reward teachers. The organization recognizes the critical role of teachers in the region and values the vital influence they have on Tucson's future. For more information and to support Tucson Values Teachers, visit [tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://tucsonvaluesteachers.org) or call 520-327-7619.*

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