



## NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact: Pamela Doherty  
The Caliber Group  
(520) 449-3967  
[pdoherty@calibergroup.com](mailto:pdoherty@calibergroup.com)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Second Annual Teacher Day at UA: Bigger and Better than Ever**

TUCSON, ARIZ. (April 16, 2012)— In honor of the region’s teachers, Tucson Values Teachers, the University of Arizona (UA) and Champions for Change will host the second annual *Teacher Day at UA* on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free event for teachers kicks off National Teacher Appreciation Week, held the first week in May each year.

New features this year include two sites for teacher sign-in at UA Science Flandrau or the Arizona State Museum; a Business/Education Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at both sites that will feature more than 80 businesses, educational organizations and UA programs with resources that directly benefit local teachers. Teachers can also expect family-friendly activities, nine free on-site professional development opportunities, credits, on-site certification for teachers and numerous giveaways from area businesses.

This year, as a special feature arranged by U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva, two specialists from the Library of Congress will share ways for teachers to access more than 20 million congressional archives for use in their classrooms, a one-hour session that offers professional development (PD) credits. Teachers also will enjoy the UA’s “Worlds of Words,” the country’s largest collection of international literature for children and adolescents; and the UA Poetry Center, which features family-focused activities including writing workshops and a Youth Poetry Slam to showcase original work by local poets.

Teacher Day at UA will conclude with a *Toast to Teachers* from 2 to 4 p.m. at Geronimo Square in Main Gate Plaza, featuring a champagne toast, live music and performers, the UA pep band and cheerleaders, UA mascots Wilbur and Wilma, and remarks from Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, including recognition of exemplary principals and teachers.

“The University of Arizona is pleased to support the many fantastic teachers in southern Arizona,” said University of Arizona Dean of Education Ronald Marx. “We encourage our local educators to take advantage of the many Arts, Humanities and Science resources the UA will feature on campus during Teacher Day.”



Jacquelyn Jackson, executive director of Tucson Values Teachers, added, “This event is going to be bigger and better than before, with even more opportunities for teachers to access free professional development, a range of UA materials and information and goodies for their classrooms. For the public, this is a chance to show up in force at the *Toast to Teachers* to say thanks to these dedicated professionals.”

Teacher Day at UA and parking on the UA campus is **free** for teachers who register to attend the event at the Flandrau Science Center, 1601 E. University Blvd., or the Arizona State Museum, 1013 E. University Blvd. The event is expected to attract 4,000 participants, doubling last year’s attendance.

In addition to Tucson Values Teachers, the University of Arizona and Champions for Change, other sponsors for the event include Raytheon, OfficeMax, Helios Education Foundation and Cox Communications.

#### **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 must 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 information, visit [www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org](http://www.tucsonvaluesteachers.org), or call (520) 327-7619.

#### **Event Details:**

**When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, April 28, 2012  
**Where:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Teacher Expo and Professional Development (UA Mall)  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. -- Toast to Teachers (Geronimo Square in Main Gate Plaza)  
**Cost:** Free for teachers and guests; no charge for UA campus parking  
**Registration:** Flandrau Science Center - 1601 E. University Blvd.  
Arizona State Museum - 1013 E. University Blvd.

Note: Registered teachers will receive “Teachers Rock” buttons, cloth bags and a program and resource guide.

###