

# Message From The Superintendent



Dear Families:

As we approach the dawning of a new school year, it is satisfying to reflect upon our progress in the first year of implementation for the SUSD 2020 Directions Plan.

There have been clear and evident indicators of progress in all of the six directions. Some of the highlights include:

- Successful implementation of the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) at both high schools. This has correlated with a doubling of the number of Advanced Placement (AP) examinations taken by our students this past year, from 185 to over 400!
- Recognition of two Arizona A+ Schools of Excellence (Anza Trail K-8 and Sahuarita Primary School).
- Over \$4,000,000 in postsecondary scholarships earned by our Walden Grove HS and Sahuarita HS students, which is an all time high!



- Comprehensive communications plan, leading to enhanced level of service and outreach.
- Recognition of the inaugural class of the Sahuarita Hall of Fame.
- NJROTC program honored at regional "Super Bowl" competition in California.
- Two interscholastic State Championships at Walden Grove HS (Girls Soccer and Dance).
- Recognition of instrumental music programs at State Band Festivals.
- Individual Event State Championships at Sahuarita HS (Taylor McClelland-Girls Track 400m, 400m Girls Relay, 1600m Girls Relay).
- Appointments of graduating seniors to three different U. S. Military Academies.
- Two Interscholastic State Runners Up (Girls Track-SHS, Boys Baseball-WGHS).
- 2015 Pinnacle Award recipient, Charlotte Gates, recognized for outstanding practices and new ideas that result in significant contributions for school districts and the school business profession.



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As we look forward to the new 2015-16 school year, and implementation of the second year of SUSD 2020, there are many reasons to start the new academic year with much optimism and excitement. Among the reasons are:

- Second year implementation of major programmatic initiatives, including Beyond Textbooks instructional planning framework, Excel<sup>2</sup> 21st Century Community Learning Center programs, and NMSI.
- Initiation of Sahuarita Cats professional recruitment and training initiative with the College of Education, University of Arizona.
- Long term planning to proactively meet needs of our growing community.
- Continued development of Industrial Pathways program in Diesel Technology and Heavy Equipment Operations, in cooperation with sector business partners in the community.
- Professional development program expansion to over thirty training offerings, including comprehensive staff development and



coaching in the critical area of elementary content mathematics.

- Implementation of new academic and CTE programs, such as the college level dual enrollment course in Economics and Philosophy (UA Dual Credit) and Law and Public Safety (CTE program).
- Additional and intentional focus on freshman student success, through efforts such as the honors program, and freshman supports initiative.
- Continued development of the successful and innovative Sahuarita WINS! strategic partnership among K-12, higher education, business, public municipalities, and community.

As you can see, the rising of the sun from this new year brings a bright light of excitement and hope of a promising and successful year ahead. I am excited to work with you in strong resolve to the critical focus on our all important mission, working as a team to help every student succeed. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,  
Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



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