

## SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

October 2013

Dear Families:

It has been said that if you do not know where you are going, you will not know when you get there. With that wisdom in mind, one of my major goals for the current 2013-14 school year is to engage in the development of a formal strategic plan, called SUSD 2020. The objective is to map the key goals, corresponding strategies, and major activities that will further guide our school organization to excellence in the coming years.

I strongly believe that our schools belong to the community and, as such, the community must be actively involved in giving input and meaning to this effort. An integral part of this process is the identification of feedback from various stakeholders regarding fundamental ideas and concepts that define excellence for us, and will guide our organizational efforts. This includes reinforcement of themes currently seen as strengths, as well as those that could be further refined and solidified as key elements of excellence. It also may include those new ideas that are yet to emerge on the radar in regards to who we wish to become as a school organization and community. Think about the traditions of where we've been, where we are now, and also envision what we can become in the future. Members of our leadership team and I will be making presentations and engaging in community discussions to various stakeholders such as school faculty members, Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), local business groups, faith communities, and other local entities. Additionally, we've also set up a designated email address to give us feedback about those key ideas that you think define an excellent school organization, and should, therefore, be part of our strategic plan. You can email us at [SUSD2020@sahuarita.net](mailto:SUSD2020@sahuarita.net). I ask you to think about your hopes for our school community in the future and take time to share your thoughts and ideas. Your input is much appreciated and will be part of this initial phase of gathering stakeholder data and identifying major themes that emerge from the process. I anticipate this initial process running through the holiday season, followed by writing of drafts, and ongoing feedback, hopefully leading to the completion of a final product in the late spring or early summer of 2014.

I am also sharing the simple PowerPoint slides that we are using in some of these presentations as an additional source of information. It will be on our website, [susd30.us](http://susd30.us), under the Superintendent's Page.

I look forward to working as a team with all of you, in creating a plan that further defines our goals, values, and focus on excellence for the coming years. Together, we will continue to make a difference!

Sincerely,

Manuel O. Valenzuela, Ed.D.  
Superintendent