

I want to welcome readers, including staff, friends and community partners to Tucson Youth Development's (TYD's) first ever quarterly newsletter. I am excited about this opportunity to layout my vision for our organization as we **celebrate 50 years of valuable service to the community**. As we move forward we will focus on uniting our organization into the most capable provider of alternative education and workforce development services in Tucson and in Pima County. In a recent poll, readers were asked to vote on the number one reason teamwork in the workplace fails. Poor communication was picked as the most negative factor when it comes to working in teams.



Jay Slauter, TYD Executive Director

It is imperative that we recognize TYD as one team with open lines of communications and shared resources between our alternative education schools and workforce development programs. As Executive Director, I am asking each employee to join me in dedicating ourselves to linking our resources in these areas to provide the most comprehensive services and benefits to the "at-risk" youth populations that we serve. And, in order to **continue our legacy as a distinguished provider of services to our community's most vulnerable youth**, I ask each of us to double our efforts to work cohesively internally and also to increase our collaborative partnerships within the community.

Through this increased communication, initiative and dedicated service, each of us will help move TYD forward into the next stage of our evolution. As a united organization Tucson Youth Development and ACE and YouthWorks Charter High Schools will reach a new pinnacle in serving "opportunity" youth throughout Pima County who critically rely on our support.

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TARGETING OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH

The National League of Cities YEF Institute reports approximately **10,700 disconnected and out-of-school youth in Pima County at any given time**. Some of the challenges these youth face include extreme poverty, lack of basic needs, no support system, homelessness, teen pregnancy and more. They require caring, individual and additional support to reach their potential, and to ultimately become contributing members of this community. TYD's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program helps out-of-school youth to **reduce barriers, return to school and get a job**. Services include case management, academic/career exploration, basic needs, job placement, tutoring, alternative education, vocational training and college tuition assistance. Inquire, learn more or support the program by contacting TYD's Program Director at (520) 623-5843 or visiting TYD's website.



Thanks to the Deupree Family Foundation, ACE has implemented an Aquaponics Garden and Lab that has fed students, and their families, fresh organic vegetables and herbs. Managed by Mrs. Emily Ruddick, the Aquaponics Garden was integrated into TYD's 2015 Summer Youth Employment Program's learning activities. Participants and students helped to plant basil, lettuces, bok choy and other herbs. In just 15 days, the produce was ready to harvest! Aquaponics takes up less space, and uses less water than traditional soil gardening yet produces organic food very quickly and less expensively as it needs no added fertilizers (thanks to the fish). The roots in the water also allow for plants that normally cannot be grown during the summer in Tucson to thrive (such as lettuces!).



Aquaponics is being integrated into Science curriculum and the Community & Culture program at ACE. Schedule a tour by calling us or visiting our website today!



YouthWorks (south campus) is also building a Aquaponics garden within a greenhouse very soon so stay tuned!...

acehs.org
youthworkshs.org

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

ACE & YouthWorks are alternative Charter High Schools for students in need of credit-recovery, one-on-one support and accelerated graduation! **Enrollment is accepted year-long. New students, and the referrer, receive a \$50 gift card!**

Learn more: www.acehs.org and www.youthworkshs.org

* Consider making your AZ School Tax-Credit to ACE or YouthWorks! *

AQUAPONICS GARDEN

Steven is in his first year at the University of Arizona and we cannot be prouder of him! Steven has overcome a lot in his young life. Living in a single-parent household, Steven lost his father at a very young age. High school years were difficult and he bounced around a lot until ultimately, he dropped out. At 21, he came to TYD with the goal of going to the U of A. But first, he had to get his GED. TYD sponsorship through this journey included providing him with the proper support needed to succeed. Not only did Steven study tirelessly for the GED exam but he was also working many hours to contribute to the family household. A short five months after coming to TYD, he not only passed his GED exam—he passed with flying colors and was accepted to the University of Arizona. Through financial aide and small scholarships from the UA and TYD, Steven is a proud Wildcat, majoring in Computer Science and Japanese, and on a pathway to success!



Facebook.com/R3DPLAN3T

Raul is YouthWorks Charter High School's first graduate this year! He chose YouthWorks for credit-recovery and for increased one-on-one support as compared to the larger high school he had attended. For the first time ever, Raul earned As and Bs through his hard work. He studied and completed school-work after-school and over the weekends, and also worked diligently over this past summer to get ahead. He plans to attend Pima College to pursue Music Engineering as Raul—or R3D—has found passion in music rapping about his life experiences. "I don't rap about money, girls, cars, stuff like that. I rap about stuff that matters; my life and what I see every day," he says. R3D will also be auditioning for America's Got Talent in Phoenix in December.

A special recognition to an ACE student—for anonymity, we'll refer to her as Janelle. Janelle is an ACE senior, and she is also homeless. Since enrolling she has not let anything stop her as she recovers credits to a high school diploma. Everyday she has come to school—some days even "hitching" a ride—because she is resilient, motivated and inspired to a brighter future. "No one has ever really cared; till I came to ACE," she says. Stay tuned for the rest of her story; we know it will be great...

YOUTH CAREER CONNECT PROGRAM

As the lead non profit, TYD is helping to train and connect youth to STEM-related careers while also responding to local employer and workforce needs through the Youth Career Connect program. Administered by the Pima County One Stop, through a \$5.4 million U.S. Dept. of Labor grant, Youth Career Connect will serve 40 students in Biotechnology from Tucson High Magnet School, Sunnyside High School and Desert View High school. An additional 30 students will be served in Precision Machining from Desert View High School and Tucson High Magnet School, 15 students in JTED Aviation and 15 students in JTED Health Information Technology. Students will earn at least two years of college credit, industry recognized certifications and credentials, work-based learning opportunities, tutoring and support services, and an individual internship with potential company placements

(cont'd) and employer-led mentoring. All students are juniors and along with their families, must commit to a four year plan to build their future.

NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH GOODWILL INDUSTRIES & PIMA PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

The U.S. Dept. of Labor has awarded a \$1.05 million grant to Pima County to serve adjudicated youth. The lead organization, Goodwill Industries, has partnered with TYD and Pima Prevention Partnership to help 130 youth involved within the juvenile justice system over a two year period. "Collaboration between the juvenile justice system and our three agencies will ensure youth find the services and direction they need to engage in school, work with caring mentors and adults, explore their talents, obtain workforce training and develop positive mindsets about their future," says Beth Hannon-Penny, Workforce Development Director of Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona. Services begin November 2, 2015.

NEW PRINCIPAL / ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Arturo Menchaca is a native Tucsonan and comes to TYD with over 22 years of experience in education. In his years as a teacher, Mr. Menchaca has taught every grade ranging from 5th – 12th. His experience as an administrator includes assistant principal and principal at the middle school and high school level. Prior to TYD, Mr. Menchaca was principal for an alternative high school where he implemented a blended model learning environment and also designed a distance learning model. These models were developed to ensure all students' learning needs were met. By providing these opportunities, he increased enrollment over 90%, decreased the dropout rate to .01% and increased the graduation rate to 75% within five years at this school.

We welcome Mr. Menchaca to Tucson Youth Development!

"I believe every student dreams of having a bright future and as educators we know it begins with a high school diploma. It is our responsibility to assist and guide them—treat each student as if they were your own child."
~ Mr. Menchaca



"The mission of TYD is to equip Pima County Youth to gain employment, achieve self-sufficiency and reach career potential through education and training."

In 2013, TYD was honored to be named Social Venture Partners of Greater Tucson's new investee and to embark on a three-year partnership to build agency capacity. SVP members are engaged philanthropists. Over the past two years they have lent their professional experience, expertise, knowledge, talent and **enthusiasm** to TYD in support of vital initiatives including strategic planning, marketing, fund-development and more. **Their support has been tremendous and invaluable.** Accomplishments through this partnership include a vibrant new logo, a new agency website, new school websites, an improved organization mission statement, long-term agency vision, development of a strategic plan, critical groundwork toward fund-development and the presence of TYD on social media. All of these efforts improve the delivery of services to youth. They increase the capacity to reach more youth and improve organizational unity and sustainability. As we near end of this grant partnership in April 2016, **we thank SVP for believing in our efforts**, and for helping TYD to support vulnerable youth in our community to success in education and employment.

Sponsor a youth, family or program activity during the holiday season! Learn more: TucsonYOUTH.org

SUPPORT TUCSON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: TucsonYOUTH.org

