

AZ Alternative Education Consortium

***Community Service Developing
Engaged Leaders
at Alternative Schools***



October 10, 2017

Alternative Schools

Helping students so
that they may serve
their communities



There are many reasons that students turn to alternative schools. In many cases, these students have been underserved or struggled in traditional settings. Alternative schools play a pivotal role in helping to develop leadership skills and foster community awareness. The students consistently engage and participate in many projects to give back to their communities.

Melissa Arvizu

San Luis, Arizona/Mexico



Melissa is deserving of recognition because regardless of all the obstacles that she has faced throughout her life, she has worked hard and has been able to overcome them. This gives me the certainty that she will be able to succeed and achieve anything that she sets her mind to and more.

~ Melody Jimenez, Migrant Data Clerk

I'm 19-years-old, and a student at PEPP TEC High School. I come from a migrant family in San Luis, Arizona. My family has been migrant since we came to the U.S. Every year around May, we go back to Mexico because of the lack of work here in Arizona. My family has had very rough times because we used to be very poor. My mom, my sisters, and I have struggled a lot since we basically grew up without our dad and he did not help my mother with what was needed. I remember we used to eat Maruchan soup almost every day with those little packed sausages or broccoli. Thankfully we have our grandfather who worked so hard to get our permanent residency in the United States to give us a better life.

When I was fourteen, I wanted to drop out of school to help my mother and sisters. But then I got pregnant at age fifteen. My mom worked very hard in the fields to help me during my pregnancy since my baby's dad did not help me with anything. When I gave birth, I dropped out of school to start working to provide for my daughter. I was still fifteen when I started killing myself in the fields. It was very hard work for me to be a mother and work so hard so young. A few months later, I got back to school, but then I stopped to work again. I actually dropped out like four times to work. We struggled a lot to pay bills, buy food, and all the things we needed because we didn't have, and still don't have, the money to afford fancy things like other kids. The last time I dropped out of school I realized that I needed to have a career to give my daughter a better life and to make my mother proud because she has worked so hard for us. Working in the fields is just something I don't like. I have worked in freezing temperatures where because of the breeze, and/or sweat, my clothes freeze. I could actually feel and hear how the ice crashed when I squeezed my clothes.

Alternative students desire the same opportunities traditional students enjoy, but they often face challenges most students do not.

*Developing skills and
confidence
in the classroom*





Academic Recognition and Student Government are often the first step in building skills and empowering the students.



**Many move on to specialized groups
such as Future Healthcare Leaders**

The school helps students find opportunities to attend events such as the LULAC Youth Leadership Conference.



*Taking those skills and
confidence
beyond the classroom*





Outreach

Students are the best ambassadors for education!

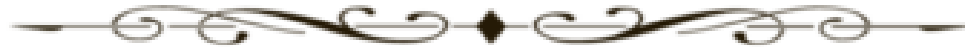


Yuma County students hone their public speaking skills talking about the importance of school to local 8th graders at San Luis Middle School.



**Douglas students serve on the Mayor's
Youth City Council**

*Ultimately - giving
back to their
communities*





**Students serve Thanksgiving Dinner
to families in need and homeless
members of the community**



**Learning the value of kindness at
Ben's Bells project in Tucson**



Hosting and promoting Blood Drives



Students in Tucson assembling care kits to distribute to needy agricultural migrant families in Yuma.



Students from all corners of southern Arizona are donating goods and giving their time in response to recent overwhelming nationwide needs for disaster relief.



Knitting hats for breast cancer patients

FEATURED

PPEP Tec students help clean up Douglas

Bruce Whetten/Douglas Dispatch Aug 29, 2016 0



The PPEP Tec students who took part in the cleanup are, in no particular order, Betza Cardenas, Alejandro Zarate, Alejandra Sepulveda, Raymond Rubio, Daniela Nieblas, Freddy Arellano, Victor Bocaregra, Heriberto Arrequin, Adan Gracia, Omar Noriega and Joaquin Escalante. Loreto was the faculty advisor on hand and Jose Gastelum was the community volunteer who also helped out with the cleanup.

**Douglas students take the lead in
community service!**

Continuing efforts and persistent support for alternative schools are key to ensuring that these students and future students like them will have opportunities to realize their own potential. In turn, they will rise to the challenges of enriching their lives and their communities.

