



Arizona Charter Schools Association Update

Eileen B. Sigmund, President and CEO

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Celebrate Excellence
2017 CHARTER AWARDS

HONORING OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES OF PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL SUCCESS

SCHOOL | TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER | BUSINESS LEADER | TEACHER

PAINTED ROCK ACADEMY

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Celebrate Excellence

Reid Traditional Schools' Painted Rock Academy is a K-8 back-to-basics charter school serving 612 students in Phoenix. Painted Rock Academy has established itself as a model of consistency since the public charter school opened its campus six years ago. The school sets a high academic bar for students, and believes – given the right tools – all students can achieve success. Students analyze classical literature and develop a love of math, science and technology, using strong foundational skills to explore new concepts and ideas in the upper grades. A stable, committed group of teachers and strong parental involvement are the hallmarks of Painted Rock's success. Parents play a prominent role on campus: assisting in classrooms, planning school events and supporting the teachers so they can focus on academics. Since opening its doors, Painted Rock has continued to earn A ratings every year the labels have been given.



SARA MALINE BOHN

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER OF THE YEAR

Celebrate Excellence

Sara Maline Bohn is the principal at Arizona School for the Arts, a 5-12 charter school serving 850 students in Phoenix. Sara creates a culture of learning where teachers and students seek opportunities to engage in challenging work and persevere through difficult situations. She got her start at ASA in 1997 as a teacher developing the school's French curriculum. Under Sara's leadership, ASA maintained its unique culture while the school doubled in size. Sara's presence on campus and inclusive leadership style make ASA a welcoming place for students, staff, and the community. Sara focuses on the needs of students, first and foremost. Through her mission driven decisions, Sara champions success and growth for all students and teachers and has earned the respect of the entire community.



SUZANNE DRAKES

CHARTER BUSINESS LEADER OF THE YEAR

Celebrate Excellence

Suzanne Drakes is the Assistant Executive Director at AAEC Early College High Schools, a network of six charter schools serving 1,700 students and 107 employees. Suzanne is a hands-on leader. While she is primarily responsible for the school's business office, she also manages school expansion, including bonding, land acquisition and construction. Suzanne is often seen on school campuses, working with principals and teachers to determine the academic and building needs of each school. AAEC's unique model requires its campuses to be located on or near a community college. Suzanne develops relationships with her higher education counterparts to ensure that students are successful. Suzanne is passionate about the school's mission and the well-rounded experiences students take with them after graduation.



BONNIE WEPPNER

CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Celebrate Excellence

Bonnie Weppner, ELL kindergarten teacher at Pioneer Preparatory School: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a K-6 charter school serving 580 students in Phoenix's Maryvale community. Bonnie is a seasoned elementary school teacher who is known as the heart and soul of her campus. In a Title I school where 99 percent of students qualify for free or reduced priced lunch, many of Bonnie's students have never attended preschool and start the year having never held a pencil. As an ELL class, English is not the first language for these students. Bonnie helps scholars realize their language potential in English, while still embracing their heritage. Bonnie instills a wonderment and love of learning in all of her kindergarten students. Through that love of learning, students are able to achieve their full potential.



FINALISTS

2017 CHARTER AWARDS

School of the Year Runner-Up

LEGACY TRADITIONAL SCHOOL – CHANDLER is an A-rated, K-8 charter school serving 1,200 students in Chandler. Legacy Traditional Schools mission is to provide motivated students with the opportunity to achieve academic excellence in an accelerated, back-to-basics, safe learning environment taught by caring, knowledgeable, and highly effective educators in cooperation with supportive, involved parents.

Transformational Leader Runner-Up

Peter Boyle is the Founding School Director of Western School of Science and Technology: A Challenge Foundation Academy, a 7-12 charter school serving 600 students in west Phoenix's Maryvale community. Data, both qualitative and quantitative, proves that Peter's leadership is setting a high bar on campus and raising the bar for what education should look like in Maryvale.

Business Leader Runner-Up

William Rubasch is the Chief Operating Officer of Arizona Charter Schools, a network of seven charter schools including the La Paloma Academies in Tucson, Heritage Elementary Schools in Williams and Glendale, and the Liberty Traditional Charter Schools in Phoenix and Douglas. William plays a leadership role in every project he manages. By leading budgeting, he alleviates the stress on principals and teachers, so they can focus on the core mission of providing students with an excellent education.

Teacher of the Year Runner-Up

Ashley Sweigert, third-grade teacher at Imagine Elementary at Tempe, a K-6 charter school serving 285 students in Tempe. Ashley is not only the runner-up for 2017 Arizona Charter Teacher of the Year, but was also honored as the 2017 National Teacher of the Year for Imagine Schools, a national non-profit charter school network serving more than 30,000 students. Ashley is a dedicated teacher with great passion for her students' success.

SARA MALINE BOHN

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADER OF THE YEAR





QUESTIONS?

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