
Superintendent Williams to Speak on Education



Williams is a lifelong Native Tucsonan. He graduated from Amphitheater High School in 1992 and began working with local youth coaching softball in the Frontier Little League. He entered the University of Arizona in 1992 and began studying business and accounting, and considered joining his grandfather's accounting firm.

Ultimately, he decided he wanted to work educating Tucson's youth, and he changed his major to Education. While completing his degree he continued working with students and the community. He began his career teaching elementary education in Tucson. During this time he followed his heart and decided to become an administrator and enrolled in Northern Arizona University and received a Master's in Education.

He accepted a position as Assistant Director at Ha:san Preparatory & Leadership School, a Native American Charter school. He began working to improve the school's cultural diversity and academic test scores. In his first year the school's AIMS scores rose 30% in reading and writing and an 8% in mathematics. Dustin has traveled full circle and most recently taught 6th grade math at Mansfeld Middle School in TUSD.

He was elected the Pima County Superintendent of Schools and is excited about the future. He is committed to improving the public education systems throughout Pima County. Dustin invites you to contact him to discuss ideas about student achievement. He needs input from you. Together, "we can do better."

Tone Deaf by Linda Lyon

Wouldn't it be amazing if all our elected representatives were people we could look up to instead of those we had to watch out for? Unfortunately, we live in the real world.

Even before the session began, Rep. Finchem was touting his code of ethics for teachers. He claims HB2002 is in response to countless parents asking him to ensure teachers can't "indoctrinate their kids". Others claim it is retaliatory, as it would allow the state to fire teachers who discuss politics, religion, or racial issues in classroom settings. It also seeks to ban teachers from blaming one race of students as being responsible for the suffering or inequities of another. In 2017, a federal judge ruled this sort of ban was unconstitutional.

Another bill likely to be challenged is HB2022, which Finchem sponsored to move Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) fiduciary oversight from the Arizona Department of Education (ADOE) to the state Treasurer. This bill could actually weaken accountability since it will likely limit the information ADOE receives about the thousands of ESA (voucher) transactions it must monitor. And, since it reintroduces a portion of Prop 305, not only is it tone deaf to the will of the people who voted 2:1 to kill voucher expansion, it may be voter protected, and therefor illegal.

HB2022 isn't the only education bill introduced thus far this session that is tone deaf. HB2474 seeks to again expand ESAs, this time, for student victims. Rep. Bolick claims students who are being bullied, harassed and worse, should be able to transfer to a school where they feel safer. No matter that open enrollment already provides any student the ability to attend any district school in the state.

Additionally, Senator Sylvia Allen's SB1395 would allow vouchers to be used for career and technical and vocational education and, outsource financial management to a third party. And her SB1396, would expand the voucher program to any child whose family income is \$91,615 for a family of four. With Arizona's median household income at \$53,510, it would significantly increase eligibility.

Arizonans want their public schools adequately funded and still our Legislature works relentlessly to find ways to drain them of valuable resources, to include high quality teachers. Are they really tone deaf though, if they continue to get reelected?

Pay your 2019 DOV dues now, still only \$20!

Democrats of Oro Valley Support Federal Employees by Jacolyn Marshall

At their January Leadership Council Meeting, the members expressed their desire to do something positive to acknowledge our support for the federal employees in our local communities who have been so heavily impacted by the recent government shutdown, some of whom are still suffering. According to the *Arizona Daily Star*, dated February 7th, “many federal workers still have not received their back pay or have received only a fraction of what they are owed as government agencies struggle with payroll glitches and other delays”. In addition to continuing to collect donated food items at our monthly meetings, we are promoting a fund drive for the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, which will serve to restock their shelves and prepare for the next onslaught on their resources.

Ways you can participate in our fund drive:

- Write a check to Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona
- Donate online at www.communityfoodbank.org/donate.

For every dollar raised, 97 cents goes directly to the purchase of food and providing programs that address the root causes of hunger and seek to restore dignity, health, opportunity, and hope to people living in poverty. More than 70% of the Community Food Bank’s budget is supplied through donations.*

Community Food Bank’s response during the shutdown

Federal employees received emergency food boxes at all of the Food Bank locations throughout Tucson and Southern Arizona during the shutdown. In addition, nearly 2,000 Federal employees were served by a mobile food distribution at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson. More mobile distributions were made at Tucson International Airport, Federal Corrections in Safford and Faith Tabernacle Church to serve Border Patrol.

Currently, all federal nutrition programs are funded through February.*

During the shutdown, CEO Michael McDonald stated “We are here to serve federal employees who are working without pay. The issues surrounding the shutdown are divisive, yet I think we can agree that families need food. The Community Food Bank is here to help. Your support of the Community Food Bank has never been more important.” *

More about the Community Food Bank, dated 2019

- Arizona has the 5th highest rate of childhood hunger in the country.
- One in 5 adults and one in 4 children in Arizona are at risk for hunger.
- The Food Bank served nearly 200,000 people last year with emergency food – a third of them children.
- More than 8,000 seniors received hunger relief services.
- The Community Food Bank serves people in five counties: Pima, Graham, Cochise, Greenlee and Santa Cruz.*

**Information provided by the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona*

OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE BE GENEROUS.

HELP OUR LOCAL FOOD BANK

Please bring a donation of non-perishable food to our monthly meetings.

If everyone brings only one or two items it will add up to a significant contribution!

The Dems of Oro Valley care about the well-being of our less fortunate friends.

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

Thanks to all of you who support our brave troops.

Please bring any of these items to DOV for distribution to disabled veterans: deodorant, shaving items, toothpaste, tooth brushes, pocket novels and paper back puzzle books.

Please – no candy.

March Meeting

Monday

March 11, 2019

7 pm • OV Library

F. Ann Rodriguez

Pima County

Recorder

Come early at 6:45 and socialize! Meet new friends!