

TVT Internships Near \$250,000 Mark

Tucson Values Teachers, working in partnership with the University of Arizona's Southern Arizona Science & Math Internship Center, is within shouting distance of meeting the \$250,000 match fund from Science Foundation Arizona (SFAz) 12 internships for middle and high school teachers—a central strand of TVT's efforts to demonstrate deeper value for K-12 teachers.

Ten companies, representing a wide range of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), have stepped forward, or are expected to hire for 8-10 weeks this summer K-12 teachers as interns, paid at industry wages.

The internships are part

of a comprehensive Master's program at the UA, and the SFAz funding covers 75% of tuition.

Raytheon led the field by creating internships for ten K-12 teachers. And, SEBRA is hiring two interns. Other companies or organizations who have stepped up are: BeachFleischman, General Plasma, Sundt, Bio Vigilant Systems and Biosphere 2. Texas Instruments, Tucson Embedded Systems and Ventana Medical Systems have also expressed an interest in participating.

More than 100 teachers expressed interest in the program, and about 35 applied. All are middle or high school teachers in their first seven years of teaching.

The program is a real win-win for businesses and teachers. Businesses benefit from a highly qualified professional in their workforce, and teachers gain first-hand knowledge of how STEM translates into the workplace, which they can then take back into the classroom.

While it is too late for teachers to sign up for the Master's program, a second cohort will open this fall. TVT plans to expand the internship program to cover a wide range of subjects.

If you are an interested teacher or a business, contact TVT Executive Director Jacquelyn Jackson at 780-1034 or jjackson@tucsonvaluesteacher.org.



Colleen Niccum of Raytheon was elected President of the TVT Board of Directors at the March 26, 2009, meeting. Niccum heads a 17-member Board that includes representatives from business, teaching, administration and nonprofits.

TVT Metrics Being Developed Through TVT/UA Partnership

Tucson Values Teachers' John Pedicone has been working closely with Bruce Johnson, head of Teacher Education at the University of Arizona, on a range of metrics to measure the short and long-term effectiveness of

TVT programs.

Measurements are being established to determine the level of awareness of TVT, the number of teachers taking advantage of TVT programs, the overall value the public places on the teaching

profession and whether TVT impacts the retention and attraction of K-12 teachers.

Draft metrics were submitted to the TVT Board at their March 26 meetings, and finalization is expected soon.

Upcoming:

- *Announcement of major new K-12 initiatives.*
- *Special celebration of National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8.*
- *Stories about TVT interns as they enter the workforce the week of May 28.*

Executive Director's Corner

Since the October 1, 2008, launch of Tucson Values Teachers, our economy has been in a free-fall, educational funding in Arizona has been cut, and pink slips have been handed out to K-12 teachers throughout the state.

Into this dark world, Tucson Values Teachers was born. And while some may say a new nonprofit that honors teachers makes no sense at a time that budgets are being slashed and teachers pink-slipped, the need for TVT's effort has never been more essential.

Over the past 6 1/2 months, I have spoken to a wide number of organizations about TVT: Southern Arizona Leadership Council, the Business and Education Roundtable, the Sahuarita Rotary Club, Greater Tucson Leadership, the Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Tucson Young Professionals, Southern Arizona Charter Schools and the Pima County Resource Center.

Interest in TVT is wide-spread and volunteers are abundant. The TVT Implementation Team includes the Tucson Hispanic Chamber, *Live the Solution*, and the University of Arizona's Bio-5 and Education Department. Caliber Group and Strongpoint

Communications have donated significant time and expertise in public relations. And the Southern Arizona Leadership Council has gone above and beyond in supporting TVT.

In short, the community is stepping up to assure TVT's success, which in turn, will help build awareness about how vital teachers are to our economic health and long-term future. Together, we can secure more competitive salaries for K-12 teachers, which will help us attract and retain the very best, which in turn, will make our community the very best.

The times demand new ways of doing business, and TVT is forging strong partnerships among educators, business leaders and the community to do things differently. We need every one of you to help us make this work.

Check out our web site (address is below). Invite a TVT rep to speak to your organization, share your favorite teacher story with us, or donate to the cause. We are Tucson, and we can change the fate of education and our economic future by valuing the people at the heart of education: teachers.



Executive Director Jacquelyn Jackson has addressed a wide range of organizations on TVT successes.



Creating an Education-First Community

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MISSION

Tucson Values Teachers is dedicated to creating an education-first community by raising awareness of the importance of quality education, enhancing the standing of the teaching profession, and helping to attract, support and retain the very best teachers for every K-12 classroom in the Tucson region.

VISION

To create an education-first community that fully recognizes educational success as central to a high quality of life and a prosperous economic future.