



Catalina Foothills Unified School District #16  
2101 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ 85718  
(520) 209-7500 (520) 209-7570 FAX www.cfsd16.org

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**ITEM NO:** 3.6

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025

**OPENING ITEM:** Outstanding Achievements

**SUBMITTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

**PRESENTED BY:** Denise Bartlett, Superintendent

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I am pleased to highlight the following CFSD student and staff achievements:

### CFHS Robotics

At the Diamondback Qualifier on December 14, held at San Miguel High School, Pioneer 327 secured a place as the first team selected for the winning alliance and earned the prestigious Connect Award for their outstanding community outreach and dedication to fostering STEM opportunities. Their performance earned them a spot at the First Tech Challenge (FTC) State Championship, which will take place at Northern Arizona University.

Team members include Yash Chauhan, Audrey Dessent, Braeden Gracy, Ethan Lin, Kyle Lo, Ali Lucas, Isaak Martin, Archer Matika, Valerie McLamarrah, Quin Mekkelsen, Sarah Orr, Milo Peters, Christian Pierson, Kaden Semanko, Nathan Wu, Zac Young, Zoya Zar, and Aiden Zhou.

The team is guided by their dedicated coaches, Charlotte Ackerman and Chris Young, whose mentorship has been instrumental in cultivating a culture of resilience, innovation, and teamwork.

The team has developed a tactile, auditory app to support special needs students in programming LEGO robots in our elementary schools. Team members actively mentor younger robotics teams in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL). These initiatives

reflect their deep commitment to making STEM accessible, inclusive, and impactful for all learners.

Pioneer Robotics has garnered significant support from leading engineering and technology companies throughout the state. These partnerships provide essential financial resources and affirm Pioneer Robotics' role as one of the state's top high school robotics teams. Pioneer Robotics' 2024 corporate sponsors include REV Robotics, Texas Instruments, IBM, Caterpillar Inc., Dilas Coherent, ARCCA, and BAE Systems.

Their achievements exemplify the values of the Catalina Foothills School District and underscore the importance of STEM education in preparing students for future success.

#### Flinn Scholarship Semifinalists

Catalina Foothills High School seniors Fox Foster and Bryan Zhang have been named 2025 Flinn Scholarship semifinalists, a distinction awarded to only 78 of Arizona's top high school seniors. This prestigious recognition highlights their exceptional academic achievements, leadership qualities, and dedication to community service.

The Flinn Scholarship is one of the most competitive merit-based scholarships in the state, providing recipients with a comprehensive undergraduate education at an Arizona university, as well as unique professional and cultural opportunities. Being selected as semifinalists is a testament to hard work, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to excellence.

We wish them the very best as they move forward in the selection process and celebrate this remarkable milestone in their academic journey.

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION: Information Item**