

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4th Grade Teacher Earns Education Excellence Award

La Paloma Academy Central teacher honored by Tucson Values Teachers

Tucson, AZ (February 19, 2015) – La Paloma Central instructor Autumn Sullivan has been named the winner of the February 2015 Teacher Excellence Award by Tucson Values Teachers. As part of her honors, the popular fourth grade teacher received a variety of prizes, including an Excellence Award plaque, flowers and school supplies.

"We were all so excited for Autumn," said La Paloma Academy Central Principal Brendan Ewald. "Autumn is the kind of teacher who always takes the time to show a genuine interest in her students. She goes out of her way to meet with parents, get to know families and problem solve."

Tucson Values Teachers is a collaborative regional project that seeks to improve education in southern Arizona by acknowledging and encouraging exceptional educators. As just one of its signature programs, the coalition of business and civic leaders honors a K-12 teacher each month with the Tucson Values Teachers Teacher Excellence Award, sponsored by Office Max.

Since 2002, La Paloma Academy has become the fastest growing charter school system in Tucson, emphasizing academic excellence and character education.

For more information about Tucson Values Teachers and the Teacher Excellence Award visit: <u>http://tucsonvaluesteachers.org/</u>

To find out more about La Paloma Academy, please visit <u>LPATucson.org</u> or call (520) 721-4205.

About La Paloma Academy

As the largest and fastest-growing charter school system in Southern Arizona, La Paloma Academy continually discovers new fun and innovative ways to make the educational experience at each of its campuses entertaining and challenging. In just a few short years, La Paloma experienced unprecedented growth, expanding from one campus in Tucson with 350 students to three campuses with more than 1,800 students. Raena Janes, the founder and charterholder of La Paloma Academy, focuses her efforts on education with individualized instruction, incorporation of extracurricular activities and emphasis on the importance of family and community values. La Paloma Academy was awarded the State of Arizona's 2005 Excellence in Education Award. In addition, Ms. Janes was named as one of Tucson's 40 Under 40 in 2006, Phoenix's 40 Under 40 in 2011 and Tucson's Mentor of the Year in 2008. Visit the school's website at <u>www.lpatucson.org</u>.

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