



# AZALAS



## *Supporting* ASPIRING LEADERS

As the days grow longer and temperatures rise, our Year Two Aspiring Leaders are approaching the culmination of their two-year journey in the AZALAS Aspiring Leaders Program. This important milestone provides an opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation to the host districts whose partnership makes this work possible.

We are deeply grateful to the Tolleson Union High School District, Sunnyside School District, and Yuma Union High School District. Each district generously provides meeting space for our workshops, assists with equipment and materials, and in some cases prepares and serves lunch for our participants and guests. Their hospitality and collaboration allow us to deliver a meaningful, high-quality learning experience. Thanks to their support, our program has grown to serve 214 participants. Our current cohort counts are as follows:

- **Tucson Region Year One** – 30 participants >>> **Tucson Region Year Two** – 20 participants
- **Yuma Region Year One** – 34 participants >>> **Yuma Region Year Two** – 44 participants
- **Phoenix Region Year One** – 53 participants >>> **Phoenix Region Year Two** – 33 participants

This commitment begins with district leadership and extends to the many team members who consistently go above and beyond to ensure our time on site is welcoming, organized, and productive. We are proud to recognize the individuals whose generosity and professionalism have contributed so greatly to our success.

We also extend our appreciation to our Yuma restaurant partners: Chick-fil-A and Mr. G's; and our Somerton partner: Subway Subs. Their management teams and staff understand our needs and consistently provide quality meals for our workshops.

The professionalism, generosity, and kindness of all those recognized above have played a significant role in the continued growth and success of the AZALAS Aspiring Leaders Program. Please know that your partnership and support do not go unnoticed. We are truly grateful and hope that our work adds value to the important work you do every day on behalf of students.

*Joe Quintana*

Training Facilitator, AZALAS

*“The thing that lies at the foundation of positive change, the way I see it, is service to a fellow human being.”*

*– Lee Iacocca*

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## Jose Gastelum, M.ED.

Superintendent

Superintendent Gastelum is a strong advocate for the Aspiring Leaders Program and ensures a welcoming environment for our Tucson workshops. A proud member of the community, his commitment to the district and its students is evident in the support he extends to our work. Superintendent Gastelum also continues to serve AZALAS as a Board Member.

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## Wendy Graciano

HR Front Lobby Office Assistant

As the district's receptionist, Ms. Graciano warmly welcomes participants, directs them to meeting spaces, assists with materials, and helps resolve any challenges that arise—all while balancing her many daily responsibilities.

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## Albert J. Magallanez

Director of Information Technologies

Mr. Magallanez and his team ensure our technology is fully operational upon arrival. From syncing displays to troubleshooting unexpected issues, they anticipate our needs and demonstrate genuine care for the success of each training day.

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## John Oakley

Director of Food Services

Mr. Oakley and his team consistently provide high-quality meals that are thoughtfully prepared and professionally served. His responsiveness and attention to detail ensure that lunch is always a positive part of our training experience.

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## Antonio Sainz

Food Services District Chef



## Randy Elstad

Food Services District Chef

Mr. Sainz and Mr. Elstad go above and beyond in preparing and serving meals, arriving early to ensure everything is ready and presented attractively. Their efficient and friendly service contributes greatly to the welcoming atmosphere of our workshops.

# SUNNYSIDE

Unified School  
District



## Irma Woodward

Executive Assistant to Superintendent  
& Governing Board

Ms. Woodward coordinates our training logistics with professionalism and care. From reserving space to arranging materials and coordinating with Food Services, she ensures every detail is addressed—even when unexpected challenges arise.

# TOLLESON

Union High  
School District



**Joseph Aguayo**  
CTE Culinary Arts Teacher



Tolleson Culinary Students

"Chef" Aguayo and his students prepare and serve lunch for our Phoenix cohorts with professionalism and pride. Their efforts add tremendous value to our training experience, and we hope that this partnership benefits their program as well. The students are always eager to showcase the meals they have prepared and curious about the work we are engaged in. They serve as a powerful reminder of why supporting students' academic success and overall well-being must remain our primary focus.

# TOLLESON

Union High  
School District



## Jeremy Calles

Superintendent

Superintendent Calles has been exceptionally supportive and flexible as our Phoenix Region cohort has grown. When our Year One group exceeded 50 participants and requested to remain together in a larger space, he approved the move to the Governing Board Room without hesitation—an example of the district's ongoing commitment to our success.

# TOLLIFSON

Union High  
School District



## Jesse Delgado

Academic Coach

As a member of our Year Two cohort, Mr. Delgado generously volunteers his time to assist with setup, materials, and technology support. His initiative and commitment is sincerely appreciated.

# TOLLESON

Union High  
School District



## Lupita Goodman

Executive Assistant to the  
Superintendent and Governing Board

Ms. Goodman serves as our primary district contact and responds promptly and professionally to every request. She ensures all necessary team members are informed and prepared to support our workshops. Ms. Goodman is always gracious and generous with her time in meeting our needs.

# TOLLIFESON

Union High  
School District



## Jorge Moreno

Director of Career and Technical Education

Mr. Moreno exemplifies servant leadership. He regularly greets us, assists with materials and setup, and does so with warmth and positivity that energizes everyone around him. Mr. Moreno also checks in before and after each workshop to see if there is anything they can do to better serve us.

# TOLLESON

Union High  
School District



## Martin Perez

Principal, Tolleson High School

Martin Perez, Principal, Tolleson High School Mr. Perez and his team host our Year Two Phoenix cohort with enthusiasm and care. He consistently checks in before and after visits to ensure our needs are met and seeks feedback to improve future experiences. Mr. Perez always makes time for us and is highly responsive to our needs.

# TOLLIFESON

Union High  
School District



## Ernesto Tostado

Technology Integration Coach

As a member of our Year Two cohort, Mr. Tostado generously volunteers his time assisting with setup, materials, and technology support. His initiative and commitment is sincerely appreciated.

# YUJUMA

Union High  
School District

A portrait of a middle-aged man with dark hair, wearing glasses, a blue patterned shirt, and a dark tie. He is smiling warmly. The background is a dark green with faint clover patterns and a glowing yellow oval with sparkles at the bottom.

**Lucky Arvizo**

Principal, Somerton High School

Mr. Arvizo's warm and professional welcome sets the tone each time we visit. He consistently checks in to ensure our needs are met and fosters a supportive environment reflected by his entire team. We are grateful for the beautiful space at Somerton High School and the hospitality we experience there.

# YUMA

Union High  
School District



**Tim Brienza**  
Superintendent

Since the beginning of our partnership, Superintendent Brienza has been welcoming, supportive, and instrumental in expanding the Aspiring Leaders Program to the Yuma Region. He consistently ensures—either personally or through his team—that we have the resources and support needed to succeed. Because of his vision and leadership, our largest group of participants comes from Yuma Union.

# YUUMA

Union High  
School District

A portrait of Christal Buckley, a woman with dark hair, smiling. She is wearing a green and white striped shirt. The portrait is set against a green background with a glowing yellow oval and starburst effects around it.

## Christal Buckley

AVID District Coordinator

A former Aspiring Leader herself, Ms. Buckley has supported the program since 2019, when she and colleagues traveled to Phoenix for training. She now serves as the district liaison, ensuring participants receive timely information, coordinating meeting space at Somerton High School, and confirming that technology and logistics are in place. When a lunch order was once missed, she personally made a 50-minute drive to ensure a participant was taken care of—just one example of her dedication to creating a positive learning experience.

# YUUMA

Union High  
School District

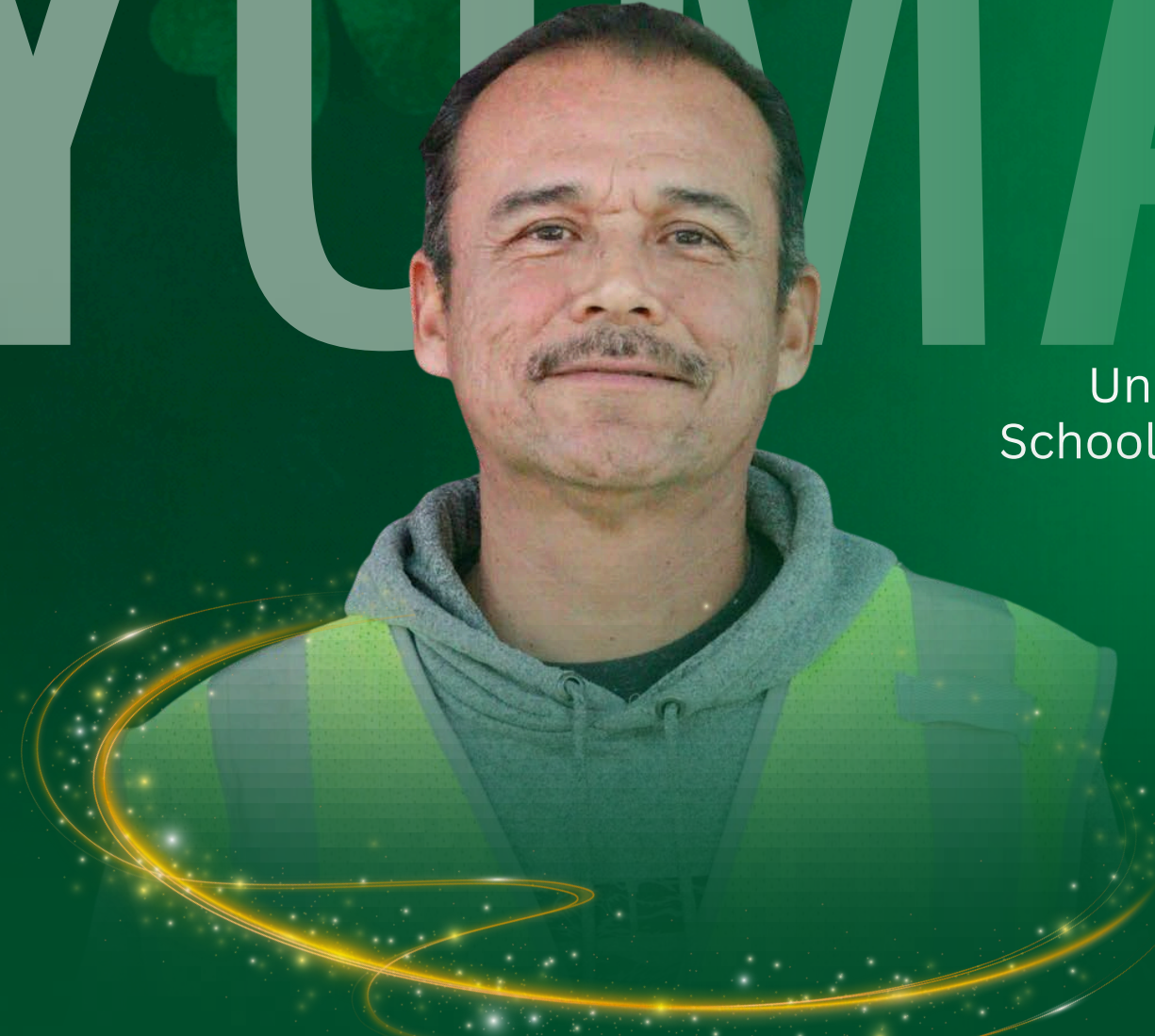
A portrait of Ophelia Clark, a young woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue collared shirt and a gold necklace with a small pendant. The background is a vibrant green with faint floral patterns and a glowing orange oval with sparkles around her portrait.

## Ophelia Clark

Activities Secretary

Ms. Clark graciously assists with countless requests, from logistical needs to last-minute details. Her pleasant demeanor and willingness to help have made a lasting impression.

# YUMA



Union High  
School District

## Juan Corrales

Facilities Team Member

Mr. Corrales ensures lunch service runs smoothly, anticipating our needs and preparing efficiently for participant arrival. His consistent support enhances the overall experience for everyone. His positive and pleasant demeanor contributes to the welcoming environment at Somerton High School.

# YUJUMA

Union High  
School District

SOMERTON HIGH SCHOOL  
HOME OF THE TOROS

## Rosa Segura

Administrative Assistant to the Principal

Ms. Segura is our primary contact at Somerton and a steady source of reassurance when preparing for workshops serving more than 90 participants. She ensures spaces are set appropriately, coordinates resources, and provides materials when needed. Her reliability and attention to detail are invaluable.

*I cannot do  
all the good  
that the world  
needs. But the  
world needs  
all the good  
that I can do.*

*- Jana Stanfield*

Make it a great day!

*Tracy Harris*



1988  
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO  
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

# AZALAS MARCH *Mixer*

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

## **Desert Diamond Casino**

7350 S. Nogales Highway  
Tucson, AZ 85756

Please join us for networking and refreshments with old friends, new members and business partners at our 2026 spring mixer. Sign in at the registration table for complimentary refreshment tickets. Cash bar will also be available.

Please **RSVP** by Tuesday, March 17.

<https://tinyurl.com/3pk55wtx>

## *Thank You Sponsors*

Signature Sponsor - Valley Schools Management Group

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Southwest Foodservice Excellence

Emerald Sponsor - IAG (International Alliance Group)

## *March Diamond Sponsors*

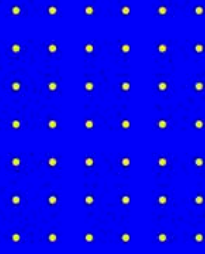
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1988  
ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF LATINO  
ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

Dr. Monica Mesa  
Board President

Dr. Marvene Lobato  
Executive Director



Invest in Your Future



# Scholarship Program 2026

## About the SCHOLARSHIP

The Arizona Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (AZALAS) is happy to announce our annual High School Scholarship program for graduating high school seniors.

If selected, a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 will be provided to students who will be attending a higher institution of postsecondary education during the 2026-2027 school year.

## Eligibility CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ▶ Be a graduating high school senior
- ▶ One parent must be of Hispanic heritage
- ▶ Possess a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5

Scholarships will be awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee and are contingent upon high school graduation, as well as proof of acceptance to a higher institution of postsecondary education.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, March 23, 2026**

**NOTE: Incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Family members of AZALAS scholarship committee members are ineligible to apply.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

For scholarship consideration, scan the QR code shown or visit <https://forms.gle/dVjY7W3NsZbKXXDe8> to complete the **application AND** submit the following:

- ✓ Letter of recommendation from a school counselor, teacher, coach, minister or other school official
- ✓ A typewritten essay (500 words or less). The essay must be written in the applicant's own words and elaborate on the following:  
*How has your Latino heritage influenced your life's goals, mission and desire to impact the world?*
- ✓ A high school transcript (a scanned unofficial transcript is acceptable)

Submit all documents by the deadline of **March 23, 2026.**

## QUESTIONS?

Contact: Tracy Harris  
[tracy.harris@azalas.org](mailto:tracy.harris@azalas.org)



# JOB POSTINGS '26



## Available Positions:

### Pendergast Elementary School District

Pendergast is proud to be the West Valley's choice for a premiere educational experience. We offer many options for students on our 12 campuses currently serving students with state-of-the-art technology and facilities. Please come and join our Pendergast family as a student, staff member or community partner.

[School Improvement Systems Specialist](#)

[Director of School Improvement Systems](#)

[Director of Employee Experience & Professional Learning](#)

### Center Consolidated School District 26 JT

[Superintendent - Center, CO](#)

### Cartwright School District No. 83

[Assistant Principal for the 26-27 School Year](#)

[Executive Director of Human Resources](#)

[Principal 2026-2027](#)

### Washington Elementary School District

[Payroll Analyst](#)