



METRO EDUCATION COMMISSION

PIMA COUNTY · CITY OF TUCSON
**EVENING TO
EMPOWER(ED)**
NOMINATIONS OPEN FEBRUARY 10

Commissioners

Rex Scott
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Dustin Williams
Rocque Perez
Matthew Schmidgall
Leslie Ferre
Jennifer Vasquez
Adriana Grijalva
Alejandro Tavera-Reyes
Dave Mason
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Robert Ramirez
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Michael Wilkerson
Rich Nickel
Mark Hanna
Marla Franco
Jake Blumenthal
Irene Robles-Lopez

The Metro Education Commission is pleased to invite you to support An Evening to Empower(ED), presented by Vantage West, taking place on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the Pima Community College Aviation Technology Center.

Coinciding with Teacher Appreciation Week, this event builds on nearly three decades of celebrating educational excellence through the Crystal Apple Awards. As the official awards of the City of Tucson and Pima County, we are excited to honor the exceptional educators, students, and organizations whose service empowers communities.

By sponsoring this event, you will engage a diverse audience from education, government, and the greater community. Please review the details and sponsorship options on the following page. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at rocque@mectucson.org.

Thank you for your consideration!



Rocque Perez
Executive Director

Honoring Excellence in Education

At the heart of the event is the recognition of exceptional educators, students, and organizations whose dedication empowers entire communities. This year's awards include:

- **Exemplary Educators** – Honoring one educator from the greater community and nine from each public school district within Pima County for their contributions to the success, excellence and mentorship of learners
- **Crystal Apple Awards** – Recognizing excellence across ten categories, including Lifetime Advocate of the Year, Superintendent of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Counselor of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Youth of the Year, Outstanding Service to Community and Outstanding Student-Serving Financial Institution.
- **College Catalyst Cups** – Celebrating high schools with outstanding efforts in increasing FAFSA completion rates and supporting postsecondary readiness.

Nominations open February 10 and close March 3, 2025.

Rough Schedule

6:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Check-In and Cocktails
6:30 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rocque Perez, Executive Director, MEC• Sandra Sagehorn-Elliott, President & CEO, Vantage West• Lane Santa Cruz, Vice Mayor, City of Tucson• Rex Scott, Board Supervisor and Chair, Pima County
6:50 p.m. - 7:10 p.m.	Dinner
7:10 p.m. - 7:40 p.m.	Recognition of Student Service <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poster Contest Winners• Recognition of Peer Coaches• Recognition of Civic Youth Fellows
7:40 PM – 8:15 PM	Presentation of Awards <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of Exemplary Educators• Presentation of College Catalysts• Presentation of Crystal Apple Awards

Sponsorship Levels

Benefit / Feature	Empowerer (1)	Catalyst (3)	Champion (5)	Advocate (6)
	\$11,000	\$7,500	\$4,000	\$2,500
Logo & Name Positioning in Digital & Printed Outputs	Lead	Secondary	Third Level	Fourth Level
Opportunity for Opening Remarks	3–5 minutes	-	-	-
Introduce Headlining Elected Official	Yes	-	-	-
Table for Marketing in Reception Area	1 Table	1 Table	1 Table	1 Table
Logo Placement & Mention in Event Program + Webpage	Lead	Secondary	Third Level	Fourth Level
Logo Placement on Event Signage / Photo Backdrop	Yes, all materials	Yes, most materials	Yes, select materials	-
Recognition During Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ad in Event Program	2 Full Pages	1 Full Page	1/2 Page	1/2 Page
Mention in Event Publicity & Annual Report	Yes (High Mentions)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition in Post-Event Communications	Yes	Yes	-	-
Right of First Refusal for 2026 Empower(ED)	Yes	Yes	-	-
Guest Seating	2 Tables (16 Attendees)	1½ Tables (12 Attendees)	1 Table (8 Attendees)	½ Table (4 Attendees)
Named Education Award	\$1,500 Award to 1 Peer Coach	\$1,000 Award to 1 Youth Fellow	-	-

■ Sponsor level taken

Last updated Feb. 4, 2025