

Tucson LINKS Letter

Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2003

NEWS FLASH

Remember to watch the 4:30 p.m. news broadcasts on local TV station KGUN (Channel 9) for important Tucson LINKS news. Who knows? Maybe you'll see someone you recognize.

Reports about LINKS programs, schools and partners are featured during the Tuesday and Thursday broadcasts.

Also, LINKS provides an educational expert for a live interview during the same broadcast on Wednesdays.

Inside this issue:

School Year Kick-off Event	1
Tucson LINKS on TV	1
Tucson LINKS training	2
Tellin' Stories Workshop	2
Quarterly Meetings	3
Behavioral Health Outreach	3
Contact Tucson LINKS	4

2003-2004 Kick-off Event

David Fitzsimmons appears at TCC celebration heralding LINKS' second year in local schools

Almost 170 representatives from Tucson LINKS partner schools attended the a Sept. 17 event in the TCC's Leo Rich Theatre to celebrate the grant's second year in local elementary schools.

The event featured school recognition, opportunities to network with other LINKS participants, and an appearance by Arizona Daily Star editorial cartoonist David Fitzsimmons.

In the course of drawing impromptu caricatures and engaging in his trademark whimsy, Fitz revealed that he is married to a teacher. He also invoked some of the central concepts of LINKS, including those of resiliency and Protective Schools.

He emphasized the importance of LINKS' primary ingredients: caring, energetic teachers and their efforts to promote safe schools and healthy students.

The audience of educators responded with hearty approval to Fitz's pointed quip that often only the negative aspects of education get attention in the news. This event, in contrast, marked a celebration of *positive* developments in schools. Good news about education also is reflected in

new stories about LINKS and related topics that run regularly on KGUN-TV, Channel 9. *(See sidebar, left.)*

Dr. Linda L. Arzoumanian, Pima County Superintendent of Schools, provided a policy maker's perspective during her keynote address about the importance of

creating supportive environments for kids. She passionately expressed how her administration's concerns about prevention and early childhood education are parallel to the LINKS goals and objectives.

Thirty-three of the 41 LINKS partner schools sent representatives to the event, displaying the commitment so

typical of educators. Schools were recognized with certificates that documented their progress through the LINKS planning and training processes.

Bob Holliday, director of Community Justice Boards for the Pima County Attorney's Office, served as the event's master of ceremonies. A performance by The Leapin' Lizards, the award-winning jump-rope team from Coyote Trail Elementary School, provided an excellent example of both pro-social bonding and meaningful participation.



Training

“A school at which faculty does not attend trainings or workshops is not going to be able to take full advantage of all that LINKS offers.”

– Dr. Kris Bosworth,
Tucson
LINKS
Training

Taking the Next Step: School personnel encouraged to attend workshops

The Tucson LINKS training staff recently trained about 350 people in one week, an impressive showing despite several injuries and illnesses.

Many partner schools make good use of the workshops offered by LINKS, but there is always room for growth.

Some workshops are less well attended than others, and some LINKS schools send fewer faculty to them than do others.

“A school at which faculty does not attend trainings or workshops is not going to be able to take full advantage of all that LINKS offers,” said Dr. Kris Bosworth, principal investigator for LINKS training at the University of Arizona College of Education.

Partnership with LINKS means obligations for all parties involved, Bosworth added. It’s not simply about “show me the money.”

“The first step is to have the faculty fully understand how the resiliency model applies to their school, how they can work together as a school community to provide a

protective environment that enhances the learning for all children,” she explained.

“Once a school has decided to focus, through the LINKS planning process, how they want to strengthen their environment, then the stipends and mini-grants can support the school in reaching its goal.”

That’s not the end, though. The next step is as important as those that precede it.

Schools should identify which workshops and trainings will most effectively help them implement their planning goals and make reservations to attend them.

LINKS regularly presents workshops about family-school connections (*see article below*), strategic tutoring, bullying prevention, Positive Behavior Supports, Caring School Communities and other evidence-based programs.

The LINKS Web site (www.tucsonlinks.org) has the most up-to-date schedule of workshops. LINKS trainers welcome your comments. Please contact them at 626-4964.



Please call Tucson LINKS training at 626-4964 for details, times and locations of all LINKS workshops. Space is limited; register early!

Tellin’ Stories highlight of the Family-School Connections Series

The focus for LINKS training this school year is on Families and Academic Achievement.

In this spirit, the LINKS *family* is offering a series of Family-School Connections workshops in October and November. By attending all five workshops, LINKS participants may earn 15 professional development hours.

The series’ centerpiece is the Oct. 17 training, *Tellin’ Stories*, which was presented by Jill Weiler and Doris Watkins from Teaching for Change in Washington, D.C.

The *Tellin’ Stories* program engaged families and school staff with the power of the story to connect people from diverse backgrounds; to pass on valuable information and experiences; and to organize collective action to improve the schools and help children learn.

The series also includes these workshops:
Oct. 9 — Parent-Teacher Conferences
Oct. 23 — Parent Centers
Oct. 30 — Family Math
Nov. 6 — Family Reading

Quarterly Meetings: Forging LINKS connections

So your school has formulated an action plan, and the faculty is attending workshops? Great! But your involvement in Tucson LINKS doesn't end there. Forging new connections is equally important.

Please plan to attend a Quarterly Regional Meeting to network with other LINKS schools and faculty, share success stories and to learn the latest information about LINKS and its programs.

The first meetings will include a brief introduction

to "Early Warning, Timely Response," a guide for recognizing and responding to early warning signs of potentially violent behavior.

With Quarterly Meetings, the LINKS staff will provide concentrated, in-person dissemination of LINKS news at convenient times and locations. Principals and core team members at all LINKS schools are strongly encouraged to attend one of these valuable events.

To make things easier, similar meetings will be held

to serve the east and west sides of Tucson.

- The east-side meeting is planned for 4-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13, at the Girl Scout Center, 4300 E. Broadway.
- The west-side meeting will occur 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the Woods Memorial Branch of the Tucson-Pima Public Library, 3455 N. First Ave.

Don't miss these gatherings. Call 626-4964 to register.

To make attendance at Quarterly Meetings easier for school principals and core teams, two meetings will be held on different days at locations on the east and west sides of Tucson.

Tucson LINKS offers Behavioral Health services Coordinators make guidelines available



Two full-time Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinators are available to advise staff at Tucson LINKS schools. All LINKS partners are encouraged to take advantage of their experience.

Diana Iglesias and Moreen Jordan are dedicated to helping implement the Behavioral Health element of the Tucson LINKS grant. One of their responsibilities is helping form Student Assistance/Teacher Assistance (SAT/TAT) Teams, or similar groups, as well as evaluating the operations of such existing teams.

"We can also be a resource for schools beyond just sitting in a meeting with the teachers," Iglesias said.

She and Jordan actively train site teams in structured processes that are tailored to each school's needs and those of its students. Suggesting intervention strategies and referral services for students involved in the SAT/TAT process also is a significant aspect of their jobs.

These coordinators, along with the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), have

responsibility for the oversight of Behavioral Health programs funded by LINKS or the member districts.

"We would like to share with all LINKS partner schools information about the support services that are available," Jordan said.

Toward that end, and in order to comply with the directions of the Tucson LINKS grant, Iglesias and Jordan have helped devise a series of guidelines for obtaining services.

Behavioral Health treatment services through Tucson LINKS are available only to students not already covered by the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) or KidsCare, or to those students who do not have private insurance. Other students are eligible for alternate forms of early intervention.

A complete list of the Tucson LINKS Behavioral Health guidelines can be obtained from the Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinators. They welcome all inquiries via phone or e-mail. See Page 4 for details.

**Linking Intervention
Networks for Kids in Schools**

Tucson LINKS
2025 E. Winsett St.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Phone: 520-225-4609
Fax: 520-225-4863

We welcome story ideas or comments.
Contact the Tucson LINKS Letter editor at
gene.armstrong@tusd.k12.az.us or
520-225-4776.

Check out Tucson LINKS on
the Internet:
www.tucsonlinks.org

*Tucson LINKS is a Safe Schools/
Healthy Students Initiative funded
by the U.S. Departments of
Education, Health and Human
Services, and Justice*

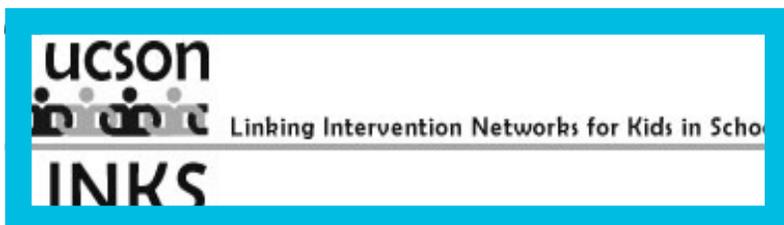


Tucson LINKS Partner Schools

(As of Oct. 27, 2003)

<i>Blenman</i>	<i>Henry</i>	<i>Painted Sky</i>
<i>Brichta</i>	<i>Holaway</i>	<i>Picture Rocks</i>
<i>Butterfield</i>	<i>Ironwood</i>	<i>Prince</i>
<i>Corbett</i>	<i>Jefferson Park</i>	<i>Richardson</i>
<i>Coyote Trail</i>	<i>Keeling</i>	<i>Rio Vista</i>
<i>Cragin</i>	<i>Kellond</i>	<i>Roadrunner</i>
<i>Desert Winds</i>	<i>Laguna</i>	<i>Rogers</i>
<i>Dietz</i>	<i>Lineweaver</i>	<i>Summit View</i>
<i>Donaldson</i>	<i>Los Amigos</i>	<i>Thornsdale</i>
<i>Erickson</i>	<i>Los Niños</i>	<i>Walker</i>
<i>Estes</i>	<i>Lyons</i>	<i>Wheeler</i>
<i>Ford</i>	<i>Miller</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Ft. Lowell</i>	<i>Myers-Ganoung</i>	<i>Wright</i>
<i>Grijalva</i>	<i>Ocotillo</i>	

*Other schools are being recruited. Between 8 and 10 slots remain.
Interested principals should call Kay Aldridge (below) for details.*



Contact the Tucson LINKS Staff:

Tucson LINKS at TUSD

Project Coordinator

Kay Aldridge, Ph.D. 225-4609

School Outreach Coordinators

Sue Habkirk, Ph.D. 225-4750
Lynda Robinson, M.Ed. 225-4762

Behavioral Health Outreach Coordinators

Moreen Jordan, M.A., C.P.C. 225-4912
Diana Iglesias, M.S.W., C.I.S.W. 225-4922

Early Childhood Outreach Coordinator

Gail Bornfield, Ph.D. 225-4609

Administrative Assistants

Barbara Beuckman 225-4609
Gloria Richardson 225-4906

Communications Coordinator

Gene Armstrong 225-4776

TUSD School Safety Officers

RuthAnne Penn 584-7676
Dave Holaway 584-7676

**Tucson LINKS Training
The University of Arizona**

Principal Investigator

Kris Bosworth, Ph.D. 626-4350

School Training Coordinator

Steven Nagle, M.A. 626-9258

Trainers

Patricia Helgeson, M.Ed. 626-1615
Maryann Judkins, M.Ed. 626-1615
Keith Rocci, M.Ed. 626-1615

Workshop Information/Registration

Amanda Mancini, M.B.A. 626-4964