

2015 ARIZONA FEA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

MARCH 2-4, 2015

Loews Ventana Canyon Resort
7000 N. Resort Drive, Tucson Arizona

The **2015 Arizona Future Educators Association State Leadership Conference** took place March 2-4, 2015 at the Loews Ventana Canyon Resort for the Arizona Future Educators Association students, advisors and guests and embraced this year's theme, "Higher, Faster, Stronger! I'm a Teacher, What's Your Superpower?" The opening session on March 2 featured keynote speaker *Sunjay Nath*, founding Vice President of a multi-million dollar e-learning company, engineer and international speaker. Sunjay provided an inspirational, interactive and entertaining message for attendees. The Executive Director of Future Educators Association, Dan Brown, joined Arizona FEA for the conference and shared updates on the evolution of FEA as our general session keynote speaker. Margie Looney, 2015 AEF Teacher of the Year and Ambassador for Excellence, wrapped up the event for our closing session with her personal journey in education and inspiration to go Higher, Faster, Stronger as Super Teachers.

FEA chapters and members participated in many activities including 32 competitions related to teacher preparation and leadership. Students showcased their skills in a variety of areas related to education careers. The competition winners of each event received a \$2,500 scholarship renewable for four years from Grand Canyon University. The top five finishers for each event qualified to compete at the FEA National Conference from April 22-25, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

We are proud to announce the Arizona 2015 FEA Student of the Year is *Samantha Melendrez* from Metro Tech High School. Samantha has gone above and beyond to prove herself as a Future Educator by providing support to FEA chapters across the state, reaching out to businesses, post-secondary partners and community leaders to obtain support for FEA; assisting to establish the first statewide charity for our organization and promoting this charity; exceeding requirements for chapter visits; doubling the number of social media followers for our organization; submitting a proposal to speak at the national conference; and so much more.

The 2015 Arizona FEA Teacher of the Year is *Daniel Darrow* from Washington High School. Mr. Darrow works diligently to inspire future educators and provide them with opportunities to pursue their passion for teaching. He spends countless hours outside of the normal school day to take students to conferences, fundraisers and community events; and to assist them with preparing for competitive events. Mr. Darrow holds each student to his high expectations. For this reason, his students rise to the occasion and achieve more because of his influence. This year alone, Daniel Darrow and his students have completed service projects to help paint the local elementary school, provide community children with a hand puppet show, held a H.E.R.O night at an elementary school to Help, Encourage and Respect Others, sponsored a game night for underprivileged families to provide family engagement strategies and led students to participate in the Maryland Health and Fitness Night. Mr. Darrow and his students have raised money for our statewide charity, the Playmakers, and also lead a book drive to collect over 450 books for young children to encourage reading in underserved communities.

Congratulations to all of our Future Educators and Advisors! Each of you displayed your super powers and will continue to do so as you pave the way for the future of education in Arizona!

The Arizona FEA has over 1,300 students statewide who receive leadership training and classroom instructional experience as they prepare to become successful teachers. For more information about the Arizona FEA organization visit: www.arizonafea.com.

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