



PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Megan Griego, Senior Officer

Communications & Strategic Alliances

623.932.7033 | mgriego@aguafria.org

Canyon View Is the Only School In AZ To Be Recognized For Premier Theatre Education

The Canyon View Theatre program has been named a Premier Theatre Community for Theatre Education by the Educational Theatre Association. The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) recognizes individual schools that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide theatre access and education to all students. This is the first year the EdTA has had this distinction, and Canyon View was the only one in the state to receive it.

According to Kendra Schroeder, Canyon View's Theatre Director, "Being recognized with this honor is a powerful demonstration to our community that we have the best to offer in terms of theatre education and how the school and the District support theatre education."

To qualify for the distinction, Schroeder answered detailed questions about funding, teacher development and evaluation, theatre class curriculum and participation, instruction time, facilities, and support for the theatre program.

The program hopes to use this distinction to recruit Agua Fria School District students interested in making theatre a part of their future careers.

The theatre program is a relatively new program. The after-school program was started 2 ½ years ago and already has 60 students, and with this new distinction, "the program can continue to grow and get more and more students involved as the years go on," said Schroeder.

Research affirms the educational and social-emotional benefits of participating in school theatre. Students who engaged in an after-school musical theater demonstrated improved confidence, creativity, resiliency, responsibility, collaboration, and a sense of community. Another study found that students who received drama-based instruction made better connections to the curricular content. 95% of school administrators believe theatre experiences improve students' overall academic skills.

"EdTA's vision is that every student will have access to theatre education taught by qualified educators as part of a well-rounded education," said Allison Dolan Chief Content Officer for EdTA. "We're proud to honor Canyon View for helping to achieve that vision."

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Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Waddell and part of Glendale with its six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado and Agua Fria Online. Plus the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at aguafria.org