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With our sincere thanks,  
Catalina Foothills High School  
GRAD NIGHT COMMITTEE

## District 16 Report Card

# CFSD Alumni Rally to the Call for Experts

by David Hatfield

When teacher Maggie Givens was looking to find an expert resource on the Ebola outbreak for her students at Esperero Canyon Middle School, she remembered a quick, casual conversation she had with Julie Farbarik at a staff breakfast at the beginning of the school year.

Farbarik, who had recently been hired as the first director of alumni relations for Catalina Foothills School District No. 16, had asked Givens if she thought CFSD teachers would request alumni as resources who, through the use of video and voice calling services such as Skype, could share their knowledge and experiences.

Givens said she liked the idea, and then the conversation quickly moved on to other topics.

Out of the blue several weeks later, Farbarik received an email from Givens asking if there might be an alum who works in public health—or better yet, directly with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—who could share knowledge and experiences about the Ebola outbreak.

“Given the specific nature of the request, I wasn’t sure I could deliver someone,” Farbarik recalls. “But it seemed like a great way to test our network.” She posted the request on the CFSD alumni website and reached out through online networks LinkedIn and Facebook to try to find someone.

Within minutes, she received her first response. It came from Myles Stone, a 2002 graduate of Catalina Foothills High School and now a resident physician at the University of Arizona.

The next morning, Cameron Price, a 2004 CFHS graduate and now a researcher at the UA who is a specialist in public health communication and recently returned from the Peace Corps in Swaziland, responded to a Facebook message.

Farbarik says she was thrilled to have two responses with two takes on the matter.

And then, that afternoon, Farbarik

received a LinkedIn message. It was from Kristin Bratton, a research consultant at Alma Sana, Inc., in the Atlanta area, and who had attended Esperero Canyon.

Although Bratton was quick to note that she had not worked specifically for the CDC on the Ebola outbreak, as a graduate student at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, she was involved with mapping related to the outbreak, and had worked on that project with some of the people at CDC who were involved in the Ebola response.

Farbarik had been three solid responses in just about 12 hours. That was precisely what she dreamed might happen.

It’s common to talk about how education creates our future leaders. Farbarik believes CFSD’s alumni can walk that talk. And she’s out to prove it. So far, about 450 former CFSD students have signed up through the alumni’s website at [www.cfsd16.org/public/\\_community/Alumni.aspx](http://www.cfsd16.org/public/_community/Alumni.aspx). Another 1,100 have “liked” the alumni Facebook page.

Right now Farbarik’s priority is to grow both those numbers. Since leaving the district, some students have moved, changed names or, in other ways, lost contact with CFSD. Farbarik would like to have those people reconnect.

Thousands of former CFSD students have expertise that can be tapped and shared with current students. There’s also the possibility these former students might find good networking opportunities among themselves.

CFSD officials have insisted this alumni effort is not about raising money or organizing reunions. “There aren’t too many other school districts who could do this sort of thing. It’s a resource we have,” says Farbarik.

In the meantime, the Skype session for Maggie Givens’ class at Esperero Canyon was in the works as the *DesertLeaf* was going to press.

### Tax Man Cometh

Most recipients of Pima County property tax bills last month saw increases in the totals, and from nearly all taxing entities. But on closer inspection, the average taxpayer would note that the amount going to CFSD was down.

That is due to the fact that the CFSD tax rate went down 2.5 percent this year. For the average property owner, that was partially offset by a 1.2 percent increase in assessed property values in CFSD.

CFSD’s tax rate this year is \$4.71 per



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