

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 8, 2016

CFSD FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2016 TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

TUCSON, AZ—The Catalina Foothills School District Foundation presented the Teacher of the Year award to two outstanding educators: Charlotte Ackerman, CFSD Teacher Leader for Science and Engineering Practices, and Jennifer Dooley, Certified Teacher at Valley View Early Learning Center. In addition, the Foundation selected Catelin Beachy (Esperero Canyon Middle School), Jackie Goodson (Orange Grove Middle School) and Angela Hill (Catalina Foothills High School) as this year's Distinguished Educators.

With over 22 years in the classroom as an elementary teacher and a gifted specialist, Charlotte Ackerman has been igniting student engagement through real-life problem solving and hands-on challenges. Ms. Ackerman facilitates, with the classroom teachers, all of the elementary Robotics classes at Canyon View, Manzanita, Sunrise Drive, and Ventana Vista Elementary Schools. In addition to her work in the classroom, she has been coaching FIRST Lego League (FLL) robotics teams for Catalina Foothills Community schools for fifteen years. She graduated cum laude from Goucher College, going on to earn her M.Ed. at University of Arizona. In 2015, she was awarded FLL Coach of the Year at the FIRST World Festival in St. Louis, MO.

Since 2002, Jennifer Dooley has been teaching at Valley View Early Learning Center. In her classroom, she embraces visual systems tools to support her students' abilities to see connections and think systemically. She earned two Masters of Education (in Early Childhood Education and Educational Leadership) from NAU and she received her undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona. She holds both standard elementary 1-8 certification and principal certification, and she is a K-12 reading specialist.

The Teacher of the Year program highlights the contributions of Catalina Foothills' teachers and has the support of the CFSD Foundation. The program annually recognizes two exceptionally skilled and dedicated teachers from a group of 5 "Distinguished Educators". Nominees are those who have gained the respect and admiration of students, parents and co-workers, and who inspire learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities. They play an active and useful role in their communities as well as in their schools, distinguishing themselves as leaders.

Each year, teachers who have earned the title of Teacher of the Year or Distinguished Educator are honored at a Foundation event. This year's event is scheduled on April 10 at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, beginning at 10:00 A.M. This is a family-friendly event, with a breakfast buffet along with fun, indoor games for the kids.

About the CFSD Foundation

Founded in 1983, the Catalina Foothills School District Foundation is an independent, 501c3, non-profit organization which provides support to the Catalina Foothills Unified School District 16. Until 1998, the Foundation focused on teacher-initiated projects in the classroom, such as library books, math materials, telescopes, drama, and fine arts equipment. Since 1998, the Foundation has focused on raising critical resources for teaching positions and other academic programs. The Foundation partners with school administration, and school-based Faculty and Family Organizations, to sustain excellence in public education. Donors include parents, community residents, and local businesses.

For more information:

Julie Farbarik, Director of Alumni and Community Relations, CFSD jfarbarik@cfsd16.org or 520-664-4545

The Catalina Foothills School District is Tucson's leading educational choice for PreK-12, educating many students living throughout the greater metro area. District schools offer a dynamic curriculum that engages students in deep learning taught by highly competent teachers who are held accountable for learning results – 97.5% of CFSD students graduate and 94% attend college. A CFSD education prepares students to become responsible citizens in the global community.

