



Our Approach

In 2022, we turned community engagement
into a powerful tool to connect Arizona
children to a brighter future.

*The **School Connect Model** has been used to bring diverse networks together to harness the collective power of community engagement and funnel this energy to students, families, and teachers through our local schools. Using this model, School Connect's programs and events impacted academic achievement, supported whole child development, and brought support and opportunities in key areas, ultimately helping students find success!*

Tracey Beal, Founder & CEO, School Connect

THE STORY OF 2022

CEO'S DESK

Every year tells a story. **When I think of 2022, it can be tempting to focus on the challenges to education:** the struggle to hire enough of the right staff, the continuing need to help kids make up the learning that was slowed by the pandemic, or responding to the surging mental health crisis of our kids.

- ✓ **Child ER Visits for Anxiety, Depression and Suicidal Ideation Increased by 40%**
- ✓ **3rd Grade Reading Decreased by 35% and 8th Grade Math Decreased by 29%**
- ✓ **Underserved Students Were Disproportionally Affected by COVID19 in Physical and Mental Health**

But the brighter experience in my mind, are the students, teachers and parents who beat the odds. I can think of several high poverty school districts who have increased their school letter grade because of their tireless belief in high standards for their students. I think of parents who invest hours of every week, making their school a place where educators and parents are partners in education. I have gotten to witness, firsthand, several school districts who have innovation centers where students and businesses work together to solve problems in their community. And I've been delightfully surprised by the number of industry experts who count it a privilege to mentor students in their respective fields.

It all adds up to the belief that the challenges, as intense as they are, are not the final word on this generation of students. *They are smart and care for others and want to make a difference.* One group of 7th and 8th grade student government leaders told a group of community activists that their biggest concern for their school was the loneliness and anxiety that they saw in the kindergarteners and first graders. These middle schoolers pressed into empathy and helped us see through their eyes. They were working on ways to make those little ones feel wanted and that they belong.

The work we do with School Connect is tied to the belief that together we can overcome every kind of challenge that presents itself because our kids are worth it. We need to build trusted relationships, find a common goal that is worthy of our effort and work together toward outcomes that really matter. We need to recruit and support quality teachers who will stay engaged over the long haul. We need to address school culture so that every student in every school has a safe place to learn and belong. We need to create avenues of engagement with parents so that their voice is regularly heard and they know they are full participants in the education of their children. We need to address learning deficiencies with the belief that every child has the capacity to excel and quality curriculum and instruction so that this belief becomes a reality. Our teachers cannot do all of this alone. **They need a village of support to meet this challenge and the care of an entire community to help our kids reach their potential.** *We worked with passionate leaders around the country helping this vision unfold in 2022, and we can't wait to make more progress in 2023!*

Gratefully yours,



Tracey Beal
Founder & CEO
School Connect



The School Connect Model

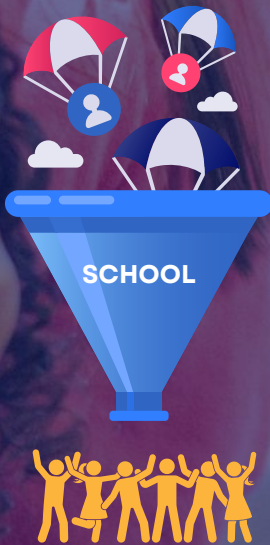
Why Community Engagement Matters

2022

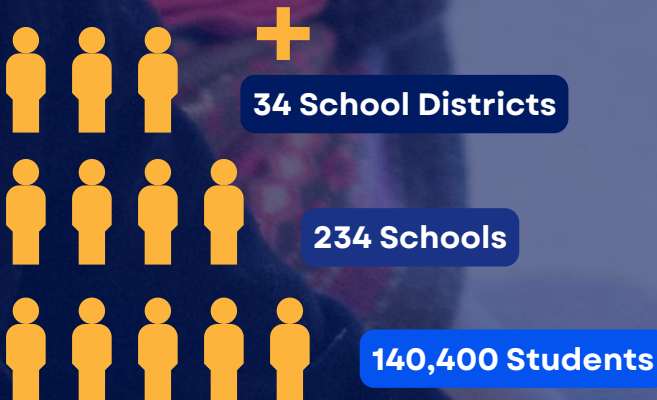
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WE GATHER COMMUNITY LEADERS

And Connect Them To Local Schools



140,400 STUDENTS IMPACTED



START WITH THE SCHOOL

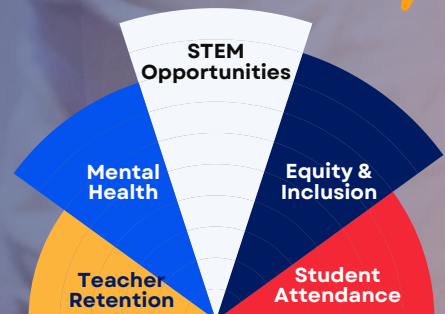
Schools are uniquely positioned to know the strengths and needs of the children and families in the community. **The School Connect Model** brings everyone together. Using the design thinking process, School Connect's CAFE program builds strategically networked leadership teams to work toward key goals and felt needs.



WE GATHER COMMUNITY

- Love Our Schools Days
- CAFE - Community And Family Engagement
- School Connect Summit
- School Connect Champions of Education Awards

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS FOR KIDS?



LOVE OUR SCHOOLS DAY

Impacting Childhood Opportunities With Project-Based Community Volunteer Days



Love Our Schools Day re-launched in person in 2022! Not only did School Connect galvanize 234 schools across Arizona, but 9 other cities across the country. It had been two years since volunteers had gotten a chance to serve schools in person and teachers and principals could not have been more excited about the opportunity. From cleaning and organizing classrooms, theater rooms, sports lockers and science labs to planting gardens and providing art experiences and sports clinics for kids, the entire community gathered and served together!

At one school, parents who had landscape maintenance jobs, arrived at 6am to completely beautify the school campus before everyone else arrived to lead Love Our Schools Day projects. Then high school students brought their expertise to elementary kids by putting on basketball, soccer, and cheer clinics. A master gardener trained students and parents how to plant and maintain their school garden. Elementary students performed Latino dances while food and drinks were provided by local businesses and parents. Celebration was in the air, and everyone had a job to do where their expertise shined!

140,400 STUDENTS IMPACTED



\$250,000

IMPACT IN SCHOOL PROJECTS



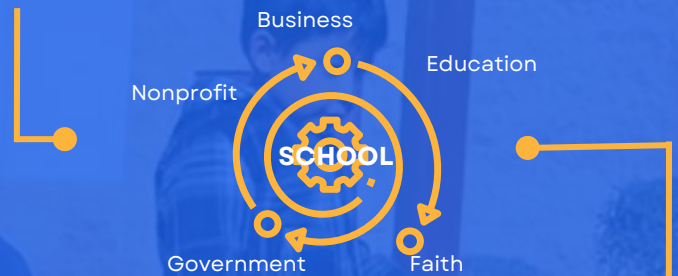
24,000 SERVICE HOURS



SCHOOL CONNECT CAFE

Impacting Academic Achievement Through Community And Family Engagement

Our Community And Family Engagement round table events were hosted by 8 school districts during 2022, bringing 1000 community leaders to meet with 88 school principals working to provide resources for 58,776 students.



88 Schools

1,000 Community Leaders

58,776 Students

CAFE IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

| Students | Schools | Partners | |
|----------|---------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 5,634 | 12 | 120 | Avondale Elementary School District |
| 6,000 | 10 | 100 | Mesa Public Schools |
| 5,400 | 9 | 100 | Kyrene School District |
| 14,000 | 19 | 125 | Alhambra Elementary School District |
| 5,400 | 9 | 100 | Chandler Unified School District |
| 4873 | 7 | 90 | Cave Creek Unified School District |
| 10,269 | 14 | 150 | Queen Creek Unified School District |
| 7200 | 8 | 150 | Laveen Elementary School District |



School Connect Champions of Education Awards

One of the greatest privileges we had in 2022, was honoring the work of students, teachers, principals, superintendents and school board members with our Champions of Education Awards.

- We celebrated the servant leadership of Levi Knoll who is part of The MET Professional Academy in the Peoria Unified District.
- We heard from Antonya Williams, VP of McCarthy Building in the Education Sector, about how mentoring relationships have transformed her own life as a child and an adult.
- And we heard from Patricia Wharton, a 4th grade teacher at Sunnyslope Elementary, about the power of engaging Latino families in the education of their children.
- We honored Debbie Kovesdy, whose company hires high school and college students to provide IT expertise for schools across Arizona.
- We celebrated Krista Roy, a City of Phoenix Neighborhood Specialist who brings incredible resources and community together to meet the needs of students and families.

- ✓ **60 Arizona Schools**
- ✓ **33 Arizona School Districts**
- ✓ **18 Finalists**
- ✓ **13 Awards Honoring Champions of Education**
- ✓ **7 Community Spotlight Awards**
Public, Private, and Nonprofit Sectors

School Connect Summit



School Connect gathered 557 leaders at this **one-of-a-kind leadership summit** with representatives from business, education, faith, nonprofit, and government entities to connect, learn, and strategize how we can build a brighter future for Arizona children. Speakers, seating assignments, and conversation topics were designed to help leaders connect their efforts through the school system to maximize reach and influence for positive change.

- ✓ **64 Arizona Schools**
- ✓ **58 Students**
- ✓ **49 School Districts**
- ✓ **2,578 Hours Professional Development**
- ✓ **346 Community Partners**
Networked with
- ✓ **212 Education Leaders**

Emcee Kareem Neal
National Teacher Hall of Fame
2022



Impact 2022

• Education Grants

Provided \$19,709 in school project grants to 10 schools impacting 6,000 students.

Cox News Room Grant

- At Mohave Accelerated Learning Center, the staff wanted to give students a chance to create a daily news show that they could put on for the school every morning. With a Cox Charities Grant, School Connect provided equipment to these incredibly talented kids to provide for their daily news show!

Meyer Food Insecurity Grant

- Nancy Meyer is a retired teacher, who knows kids sometimes go home to an empty refrigerator. Nancy awarded a grant to School Connect providing food for kids on weekends at Lake View Elementary School and Cholla Middle School!

Chief Science Officers STEM Grant

- The Laveen Elementary School District wanted to fund Chief Science Officers and STEM labs throughout their district. School Connect's *A Community Thrives Campaign Grant* partnered with Laveen Elementary to see their STEM program grow!

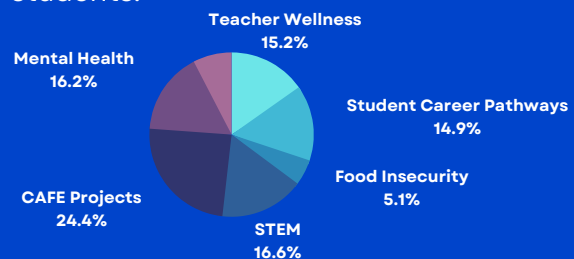


• Chinle Community

Superintendent Quincy Natay was a finalist for the 2022 School Connect Changemaker Award, which honors superintendents who have brought innovative solutions and built diverse leadership networks to create powerful change and growth in their district. Because of the timing and the distance he would have to travel, attending the awards required a 2-day commitment and an overnight stay. However, **Superintendent Natay cares deeply about the ripple effect of his leadership, and he understands that what we celebrate we work harder to achieve.** He traveled to receive the honors not just for himself, but for the children he serves. Natay then increased the ripple by returning to his district and awarding his students for high test scores with a coupon to purchase treats at school. The awarded coupons were met with cheers from the entire class. [Read The Story.](#)

Livermore Teacher Wellness Project Installation

- Linda's mother taught at Scott Libby Elementary School for 20 years, and after she passed away, Linda and Kent Livermore gifted the school in her honor. The Scott Libby PTA president knew that their educators needed a quiet, peaceful place to decompress. With this grant, the PTA Dads built a Wellness Room for staff. With soft lighting, music, and a water feature, this space now provides a way for educators to bring their best selves to their students.





Thank You

What do Erica Ray and Tracey Beal have in common? They both are using the School Connect CAFE Program to change outcomes in local schools! [Watch the story here.](#)

PLATINUM CHANGEMAKER



William C. Schumacher
FAMILY FOUNDATION

DIAMOND LEGACY OF HOPE

Anonymous

SILVER CHAMPIONS OF EDUCATION



Jack Ingebritson Family Foundation



BRONZE HERO MAKERS



EDUCATION ADVOCATES

David and Tracey Beal Cox Communications First Christian Church GCON Inc.

Dr. Kent and Linda Livermore Pakis Family Foundation Randy and Marilyn Reiff Scottsdale Bible Church

Shiloh Community Church Sunland Asphalt Tim and Dawn Tiller Antonya Williams World Wide Technologies

CHAMPIONS

Daniel and Shea Duryea Fiesta Bowl Charities Greater Arizona Christian Community Foundation

Nancy S. Meyer Nations Group Micah Phillips Dr. Mike Richardson Pat Whelan Blake Williams