



Sahuaro Cougar Foundation
PO Box 18181
Tucson, AZ 85731

Cougar Tracks Newsletter

Fall 2018 Edition



pg 2

what's inside this edition:

- pg 2 Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft**
Dr. Ashcraft reflects on how much has changed, and how much hasn't.
- pg 3 Cougar Hall of Fame Inductees Announced**
Nancy (Hamilton) Bowman, Chuck Adams, and Patty (Leya) Tingstad
- pg 5 Gone but not forgotten: Rick Botkin Memorial Game**
Notes on the country's longest-running active memorial football game
- pg 7 Available Scholarships and Financial Aid**
Students can apply for some of \$23,000 the Foundation administers.
- pg 7 Going Green and Saving 'Green'**
Sahuaro's new solar panels an improvement in finances and shade



pg 3



pg 5

Activities Director Steve Botkin Honored

Coaches for Charity Group adds another award to Sahuaro's trophy case.

Anybody who knows anything about Sahuaro and it's history knows the long history of excellence exhibited by our students, coaches, faculty, and staff. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that Sahuaro High School has earned yet another honor. This time, Activities Director Steve Botkin was recognized by the Coaches for Charity Organization.

Since 2011, the Coaches for Charity group has organized the Kickoff Classic, the official start of the high school football season. Their goal is to emphasize school spirit, focus on teamwork, foster healthy competition and to raise scholarship funds for student athletes. Each year the organization honors outstanding coaches with a 'Signature Coach Award', and this year Coach Botkin has been selected.

Coach Botkin began his coaching career as the head women's basketball coach at Rincon High School. He coached there from 1995-2000, compiling a record of 116 wins and 58 losses.

In 2001, Sahuaro was fortunate to have Coach Botkin re-join us as a teacher and coach; this is particularly significant since Botkin is, himself, a graduate of Sahuaro High School and one of many Botkins who have graced Sahuaro's halls.

Since starting at Sahuaro, Coach Botkin has compiled a record of 381 wins and 131 losses. His 497 career varsity wins and 72% winning ratio ranks him #1 in Southern Arizona and 3rd in the State for active coaches. He has been nominated for Region Coach of the year 10 times, All Sports Tucson coach of the year four times and the Arizona Daily Star/Tucson Citizen Coach of the Year twice.

Coach Botkin's teams have experienced a tremendous level of success. Under Botkin's leadership, they have gone to the State playoffs for 22 straight years. They have also won eight Region Titles, four Elite Eights, and a Final Four.

Coach Botkin was promoted to Sahuaro High School's Athletic/Activities Director in 2017. He has overseen the continued growth of athletics and activities and during his first year as the A.D., Sahuaro was recognized by the Arizona Interscholastic Association as the 2017-2018 large school Tony Komadina Award Recipient for Excellence in Women's athletics.

Coach Botkin joins a list of prestigious Cougars who have also been honored. Some honorees were honored while at another school. But, as we say: Once A Cougar, Always A Cougar!



Jeffrey Gardner (2002)

Member, Board of Directors

jeff@sahuarocougars.org

Other Cougars Honored By Coaches for Charity

Sandy Novak, Sahuaro Activities Director and multi-sport coach. Honored in 2016.

Robert "Rocky" Lane, honored in 2015 for his work teaching Spanish and Coaching Track.

Larry McKee, honored in 2014 for a long career, including his 9 years at Sahuaro.

Don Bacon, honored in 2013 for several decades as a football and softball coach.

Jay Dobyns, Sahuaro class of 1980, honored in 2013 as a coach at Salpointe Catholic.

Will Kreamer, former head football coach honored in 2013.

Howard Breinig, influential head football coach who was honored in 2012.

Billy Lopez was honored in 2012 for his 27 years of coaching and teaching at Sahuaro.

Tom Pierson was honored in 2011 for his 40+ year coaching and teaching career, including 25 at Sahuaro.

Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Board of Directors

PRESIDENT: Peter DeMars
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**COUGAR FOUNDATION / HALL OF FAME
FOUNDING MEMBERS:**
Harry Johnson
Dr. David Ashcraft

Hall of Fame Inductees for 2018 Announced

Impressive slate of community leaders to be honored in November ceremony



Jeffrey Gardner (2002)

Member, Board of Directors

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In the nearly 26 years since the founding of the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation, 95 former teachers, alumni, staff members, and other Sahuaro luminaries have been inducted into the Cougar Hall of Fame. From architects, professional golfers, medical professionals, men and women who have triumphed over adversity, military leaders, and more, Sahuaro truly has a Hall of Fame to be proud of.

This year, the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation is proud to induct three tremendous individuals who have given so much of themselves to not just Sahuaro, but the community at large. Their accomplishments and contributions are literally too numerous to list, but we've included just a sample of the exceptional work these three have done in the community.



Nancy (Hamilton) Bowman ('75)
Nurse, Entrepreneur, Activist



Chuck Adams
Educator, Mentor, School Leader



Patty (Leya) Tingstad ('81)
Entrepreneur

Learn more about these impressive inductees on [page 3](#) >

Please consider joining us in honoring them during the Hall of Fame Breakfast on November 3rd

Founder's Corner - Notes from Dr. David Ashcraft

A lot has changed since Sahuaro's founding, but a lot hasn't.



Dr. David Ashcraft (1970)
Co-Founder and Founding
President of Cougar Foundation

Arizona's oldest school district, founded in 1867, the Tucson Public Schools (now the Tucson Unified School District) recently marked its Sesquicentennial/150th Anniversary. This past school year, Sahuaro High School achieved the ripe age of 50 making it a third as old as the district. (Note: Prescott claims to be the oldest district, but was established one year after the TPS in 1868.)

In 1968, the city/county line ran down the middle of Camino Seco. To the east was largely desert all the way to the Saguaro National Monument as it was known then. Roads in the area consisted primarily of two-lane thoroughfares, and many leading toward the Rincon Mountains were unpaved dirt. Cars at the time were allowed all the way to the top of Sabino Canyon, and the Tanque Verde River flowed six to nine months out of the year.

A failed bond election in the early 1960's delayed the construction of several new district campuses. Palo Verde High School (which opened in 1962) soon went on double sessions with a combined enrollment of 4500 students. After a second, successful bond attempt, Sahuaro finally opened in the fall of 1968 with no seniors, but included three classes of 3rd graders from the overcrowded Wrightstown Elementary School which is no longer in existence. With the addition of a senior class in the second year, Sahuaro soon grew to accommodate an enrollment of 2400.



Three additional high schools were subsequently built and opened: Cholla and Santa Rita in 1969, and Sabino in 1972. In addition to Palo Verde, Sahuaro now claimed two other rivals on the eastside. While in the mid-60's when families had to send their children from Snyder Road and Catalina Highway and from as far north as Sabino Canyon to high school via a 60-minute bus ride at five o'clock in the morning, school became a lot closer for many, even with the still unbridged Sabino Creek.

Looking back, Sahuaro boasted the state's first ten-lane high school track, the state's first three-level high school library, a dividable auditorium with an orchestra pit, and curricular innovations such as a semi-modular schedule and team teaching. The school featured a complete industrial arts program including welding, wood shop, auto mechanics, printing and photography. In addition to English, Foreign Languages, Social Studies Homemaking, Science and Physical Education, other programs included a full complement of Fine



Architect's Drawing for Sahuaro High School, as originally planned. Friedman and Jobusch, Architects and Engineers.



Tucson Unified School District board members and administrators tour Sahuaro High School, Tucson, in April, 1968, prior to opening for students in August. Art Grasberger / Tucson Citizen

Arts offerings, business and cooperative education, and dance. Boy's and girl's athletics thrived from the beginning, and the activities program offered 30-plus clubs and organizations. Live bands were featured at school dances and proms which were held in the Cafeteria.

Fifty years has seen an abundance of change...fencing around the perimeter, monitors, classroom modification, enhanced security measures, solar panels, a new Auxiliary Gymnasium, and remodeled facilities. After the collapse of the auditorium ceiling in 1976, a renovation took place, followed by numerous projects over the years to bring the campus into the 21st century, and up to code. Mature landscaping has enhanced the school's aesthetics.

Some things haven't changed...school philosophy, spirit, dedication, commitment to excellence, demonstrated success and loyalty. These alone will stand Sahuaro in good stead for the next 50 years.



Sahuaro's first Student Council. Back (l to r): Mike Tansey, Tad Simons, Nonie Reynolds, Sally Spencer, Greg Tella, Mike Mulvena. Center (l to r): Stacy Hayes, Mikelyn Tovrea, Sue Northey, Dave Ashcraft, Mr. Harry Johnson. Front: (l to r): Billie Hoggatt, Sharon Graham, Patti Blecha, Brenda Wright.

* * *

Make plans now to attend the annual Sahuaro Cougar Foundation Hall of Fame Breakfast on Saturday, November 3rd at the school. Registration and check-in are at 8 AM. Online registration will be available on the Foundation's website at:

www.sahuarocougarfoundation.org.

SAHUARO
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Hall of Fame Breakfast

Each year the Hall of Fame nominees are impressive, and this year's batch is no exception. Read on to learn more about their contributions to Sahuaro and the community at large.



Nancy (Hamilton) Bowman ('75)
Nurse, Entrepreneur, Activist

An active student leader during her time at Sahuaro, Nancy was involved with Student Government and numerous other activities on campus. After graduating with excellent grades from Sahuaro, she went on to earn her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from the University of Arizona.

In 2009, after the closure of United Blood Services programs in Tucson, it appeared that eight nurses would be out of a job and a blood shortage was imminent. Nancy began her own blood services company, Surgical Cell Services LLC within two months of the closure of UBS. This helped alleviate the blood shortage concern and also saved the jobs of five of the above-referenced nurses.

In 2011, Nancy and her physician husband David were entering their local Safeway to shop when Jared Lee Loughner opened fire on Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, who was holding a constituent event at the time. The gunman killed six individuals, injured numerous bystanders, and nearly killed the Congresswoman. Nancy and her husband's presence at the scene certainly saved lives - but she didn't stop there.

In the years since, Nancy has been an active voice in common-sense gun control and mental health awareness while running her business.



Chuck Adams
Educator, Mentor, School Leader

Ever since his teaching career began in 1982 at Carson Junior High School and Santa Rita High School, Chuck Adams has been a source of not only information, but also inspiration. His reputation as a teacher with high standards was only eclipsed by his kindness, warmth, and his desire to lend a helping hand.

One needs to look no further than his former students to see how impactful Chuck has been in the lives of those he's taught. Case in point: his 1996 A.P. Government course included five future attorneys and the youngest Superior Court Judge ever appointed in the State of Arizona (2015 Cougar Hall of Fame Inductee Casey McGinley). And that was just one year!

Chuck's career has not been without recognition. In 1998 he was recognized by the Tucson Federal Credit Union as one of the community's most inspirational teachers. He has six "Who's Who Among America's Teachers" awards, and was named one of National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers in 2006.

But it wasn't just his former and current students that Chuck mentored - as an experienced teacher, Chuck held a number of leadership positions at Sahuaro, including several years as Social Studies Department Chair and Student Council Advisor.



Patty (Leya) Tingstad ('81)
Entrepreneur

Patricia (Leya) Tingstad had an active academic and athletic career at Sahuaro, playing Softball for the Cougars and learning four years of production printing from Mr. Jim Daunheimer.

After graduating from Sahuaro, Patty went on to earn a Bachelor's degree in Sociology before establishing Tingstad Graphics (now known as Eagle Graphics), a successful local print design and production facility.

As an esteemed local businesswoman, Patty was a member of numerous business groups including the Awards & Recognition Association (for which she served on several committees) and Catalina Rotary, where she spent three of her ten years on the board.

But her involvement with education did not stop after graduation. While raising two daughters with her husband Jim, Patty volunteered often. Actually, "often" is an understatement! She served several years on the PTA for Agua Caliente Elementary and Emily Gray Junior High. Later she would serve on the board of the Educational Enrichment Foundation and would even be named 'Volunteer of the Year' in 2010 for Sabino High School (but we won't hold that against her). Her advocacy for education and the youth of Southern Arizona make her an excellent addition to the Hall of Fame.

This collection of honorees will be inducted to the Sahuaro Hall of Fame on November 3rd 2018



SAHUARO
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Hall of Fame Breakfast

The Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation cordially invites Cougar Alumni, Faculty, Parents, Students, and Friends to attend the Annual Breakfast and Hall of Fame Induction:

Saturday, November 3, 2018

8:00 a.m.: Registration & Check In

8:45 a.m.: Breakfast Buffet Begins

9:15 a.m.: Program Begins

Sahuaro High School Auxiliary Gymnasium
545 North Camino Seco Tucson, Arizona 85710

Cost:

\$300 for a table of 10 (a savings of \$50 - \$150 is tax deductible)

\$35 for an adult admission (\$15 is tax deductible)

\$25 for Cougar Hall of Fame Members

\$20 for Current Faculty & Staff (includes membership)

\$20 for Alumni celebrating a reunion this year (includes membership)

\$15 for children 6-18

FREE admission for children age 5 and younger



Hall of Fame and Cougar Foundation Board Members at the 2017 Breakfast

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Ticket Purchases

Table of 10: _____ x \$300 = _____

Adult Admissions: _____ x \$35 = _____

Hall of Fame Members: _____ x \$25 = _____

Current Faculty/Staff: _____ x \$20 = _____

Alumni (reunion year) _____ x \$20 = _____

Children 6 -18: _____ x \$15 = _____

Children under 6 (free): _____

2019 Foundation Dues (optional)

Individual Dues: _____ x \$15 = _____

Family Dues: _____ x \$25 = _____

Donations (optional)

Donation amount (thank you!): _____

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Please list names of other attendees in your party:

Checks and Cash Accepted. We proudly accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card

Name on Card: _____

Card Number: _____ CSC # _____ Expiration _____

Mail registration to: Sahuaro Cougar Foundation, PO Box 18181 Tucson, AZ 85731

For additional information call: 520-886-7895 RSVP DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 26, 2018



Rick Botkin was a senior at Sahuaro High School when an automobile accident ended his life 41 years ago.

During Rick's senior season he was the team captain and an all-state selection at both quarterback and free safety. Rick also excelled as a special teams player for the Cougars.

Even though his senior year was cut short, he is still remembered as one of the greatest athletes to wear red and blue. One of his greatest attributes was being a great friend, student, son, and brother. As one of his teammates said, "Rick inspired courage that would never be captured on the sports page, never be displayed in a box score and never credited anywhere but in our memories."

He was a special person and athlete, but he made everyone feel special.

Gathered at the 40th Annual Rick Botkin Memorial Football Game on September 14th 2018 were many of his friends from the class of 1978 and family members, including his mother and father Clara and Bud Botkin, brothers Mike and Bud, as well as Sahuaro Activities Director Steve.

Also in attendance were sisters-in-law Maureen and Laura and his niece Alyssa, a senior at Sahuaro, and nephew Rick, a junior at the University of Arizona. The Botkin family would like to extend a sincere thanks to the Sahuaro Football Program, Coach Scott McKee, Principal Bobby Estrella, Assistant Principals RJ Lundstrom, Patricia Hurley, and Tyrone Cephers, and the entire Sahuaro faculty and staff for continuing to honor Rick's memory with the playing of this game.

This game is now considered the longest running memorial game in the history of high school football in the United States.

Gone But Not Forgotten

Lost too young, but Botkin's impact lives on.

In the middle of the 1977 football season tragedy struck Sahuaro High School.

After a wonderful performance, leading his team to a win over Palo Verde High, our All-State Quarterback, Rick Botkin - our classmate, our friend, our teammate, our brother - was killed in a vehicle accident. Hours earlier he was the hero. Our "Friday Night Lights" dimmed and then went black.

Other SHS students, including our star runner Steve Jarrett and our classmate Barry Raab, were critically injured in the accident. They were hospitalized and fighting for their lives.

Rick could run like few I've ever seen. He could throw and hit and play football better than the rest of us. I was two years younger and a thousand times less the athlete; for me it was incomprehensible that anything could defeat him. Not Rick. I idolized him. I admired him. Everything about him. I wanted to be like him. I wasn't the only one.

Rick was more than a 'jock'. Everyone loved him. He was like royalty at 17-Poles (our school's desert party spot). It's hard to imagine, at 17, being a legend. Rick was.

Rick's passing was the kind of tragedy that brings communities and schools to their knees. A young man with an endless future was gone in an instant. Senseless. Unexplainable. No logic or reason could be applied. As young people, most of us were not yet equipped to handle a life event of this magnitude. Many had never lost anyone close.

Our team was made up of boys between 15 and 18; now mentally, emotionally and spiritually broken. The guy we all turned to when something went wrong wasn't here anymore. We were lost. When you're young you think it will never happen to you. Then, if death could touch someone like Rick, wow, it could get any of us. I was scared.

Our Head Coach, Virg Stan, knew we were fragile. He called a team meeting on Sunday morning. As he walked in, tears streamed down his cheeks. His eyes were swollen and red. His assistants, Bob Vielledent and Lance Prickett, followed him. They were a mess as well. As Coach tried to speak, he was forced over and over to pause and compose himself. There is no chapter in the coaching manual for guidance on something like this.

What he said to us is still in my heart. He normally stood before us as we sat at desks. He pulled up a chair and sat with us close:

"There are things in life that we do not plan for. That is why they are so hard to accept and understand. We had no time to get our hearts ready for what just happened. Rick Botkin was loved by all of us. He can never be replaced. Let's just think about Rick right now. Football isn't important today."

The next week's opponent had graciously offered to forfeit the game to us; volunteering us the win in an unheard-of sign of sportsmanship. I believe the offer was extended more to Coach than it was intended for our players. Everyone knew how much Coach loved his boys. His coaching peers understood his pain.

"This is your team, not mine. I will follow you this week, not you following me. I will support with my



Jay Dobyns (1980)
Sahuaro Hall of Fame Inductee,
Arizona Wide Receiver, Author

whole heart the decision you make here today. We can accept this forfeit, take the win, and mourn the loss of Rick as a team. This may be the best route for us to take given what has happened. We will spend Friday night together as a team, as Rick would have wanted us to. We will stick together no matter what. If we do not play, there is no disgrace. We will hold our heads up."

Coach paused. "When I think of Rick I ask myself, what would he do?"

Would he want to show this city that we are the football team from Sahuaro High School? That even in the face of adversity we will fight on? Number 25 will still lead this team. If you decide to play I will coach you the best I can in honor of my player. You will play your best in honor of your friend. The choice is yours."

Now, entirely choked up and no longer able to speak, Coach left the room and said he would be back in five minutes for our answer. The room of only players was quiet. We could hear him sobbing in the hallway with the other coaches. We looked at each other and we knew what to do.

Our team only had 15 healthy players. That Friday night guys with casts on their arms and legs dressed in full uniforms to give our opponent the sideline illusion we had more players than we really did. We were determined to try.

As Coach tried to speak, he was forced over and over to pause and compose himself. There is no chapter in the coaching manual for guidance on something like this.

Coach kept his promise. He coached his best. We kept ours too and played our hardest. It simply was not enough. We lost the game.

Coach Stan showed us how to win in the game of dignity. He and Rick inspired courage that would never be captured on the sports page, never be displayed in a box score and never credited anywhere but in our memories.

After that game, our families and classmates swarmed the field. Hugs and tears were everywhere. No one wanted to leave the grass. This is where we knew Rick best. We didn't want to say goodbye or let him go.

Rick Botkin, more than our teammate, our friend now gone, continued to lead us, just like Coach said he would.

The other team's players, coaches and fans circled around us, our team, our school - and they began to clap. They had tears in their eyes too. They knew we played through broken hearts to honor our friend. When they turned off the stadium lights we were all still out there.

They didn't cheer the game, they cheered the boys who had become men that night, and more, the one who was no longer there.

RIP Augie. Never forgotten. Still cherished.



SAHUARO
COUGAR
FOUNDATION

Membership Form

In 1992, the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation was established as a non-profit organization that raised funds to benefit the students, faculty, and alumni of Sahuaro High School. This organization was started by a group of dedicated and loyal individuals who cared about the mission and existence of Sahuaro High School.

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in supporting the Foundation and its work. Your membership provides very valuable support to the Sahuaro Community.

The mission and purpose for the Foundation are:

- To perpetuate the history, traditions, and spirit of Sahuaro High School.
- To support the activities of its students and staff.
- To provide services to the Alumni.
- To invoke a system of honors and awards that recognizes the achievements of the students, staff and alumni.

Your Name: _____ Class of: _____
Last First Maiden (if applicable)

Address: _____
Street, City, State, Zip

Phone: _____
Home Work Cell

Email: _____

Annual Dues Note: Member year runs from January 1 – December 31.

- ☐ \$25 Family Membership
☐ \$15 Individual Membership

Donations are gratefully accepted.

- ☐ \$1000
☐ \$500
☐ \$250
☐ \$100
☐ Other _____

Gifts of \$1,000+ will receive a **lifetime foundation membership** and their name on the donor plaque in the Cougar Hall of Fame.
Gifts of \$500 & \$250 will have their name on the donor plaque in the Cougar Hall of Fame.

*Make checks payable to "Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation". Donations and membership dues are tax deductible.
We also proudly accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card*

Name on Card: _____
Card Number: _____ CSC # _____ Expiration _____

Sahuaro High Cougar Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) organization and your donations may be tax-deductible. Please consult your tax preparer for information specific to your filing circumstances. The Foundation's Taxpayer Identification Number is: 86-0720942.

Sahuaro Cougar Foundation PO Box 18181 Tucson, AZ 85731

Scholarships & Assistance Available

The Cougar Foundation Administers over \$23,000 in scholarships annually



Jeffry Gardner (2002)
Member, Board of Directors
jeff@sahuarocougars.org

At the Sahuaro High School Cougar Foundation, we realize that for many students, education does not end at graduation. To that end, the Cougar Foundation works hard to administer over \$23,000 in scholarships and aid to deserving students and staff who wish to better themselves and the school by their efforts. Below are this year's available awards and scholarships. To learn more, visit sahuarocougars.org

Red and Blue Scholarship (3.5+ GPA)

The Cougar Foundation Red and Blue Scholarship will provide three \$1200 scholarships to deserving Sahuaro seniors to be used for post-high school education.

Senior Scholarship (2.5 – 3.49 GPA)

The Cougar Foundation Senior Scholarship will provide one \$1200 scholarship, for a deserving Sahuaro senior to be used for post-high school education.

The Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh \$5000 Pre-med Athlete Scholarship

Generously offered to Sahuaro High School seniors by Houston, Texas residents Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh. Awarded to a senior planning to enroll in college with a pre-med focus and who has participated in one or more varsity sports.

The Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh Academic Achievement Scholarship

Generously offered to Sahuaro High School seniors by Houston, Texas residents Dr. & Mrs. Mark R. Cavanaugh. \$1000 awarded to each of the top five Sahuaro High School seniors awarded on GPA alone. In case of a tie for 5th place, the scholarship amount will be \$500 each. No application is required.

Cougar Pride \$5000 Scholarship

Awarded to a senior who plans to enroll in college and who has participated in one or more sports representing Sahuaro. Consideration will also be given to applicants who have overcome hardships in order to achieve academic and athletic success.

The Russell Public Scholarship

A minimum of one, non-renewable \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded each year, and the funds may be applied to any accredited college or university in the United States. Preference will be given to applicants pursuing a 4-year degree in political science, public administration, communications or journalism.

David Ashcraft \$500 Artist-Scholar Award

Awarded to a recipient who should demonstrate involvement in extra-curricular activities and community service.

Cougar Foundation Faculty/Staff Scholarship for Continuing Education

This scholarship provides \$500 for two Sahuaro High School faculty or staff members who wish to continue their education. Education must be taken at an approved institution of higher learning or educational program that will enhance classroom performance.

Mini-Grant Application

The purpose of the Sahuaro Cougar Foundation's Mini-Grant Program is to provide start-up or initial funding for new and innovative projects originating within the classroom and/or school. These grants provide the opportunity for rapid implementation of these projects.

College Application Fee Assistance

Financial aid is now offered to students who need help in paying for the rising costs associated with post high school education applications. Students must see their academic counselor or the Career and Technical Counselor to complete the required form.

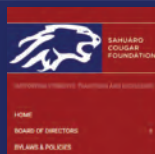
Ann Grose Memorial Scholarship

A minimum of one, non-renewable, \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded each year, and the funds may be applied to any accredited college or university in the United States. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate student leadership participation/skills and are pursuing a 4-year degree.

To apply for or learn more about these awards and scholarships, visit sahuarocougars.org

Holding a Sahuaro Class Reunion?

Let us know the details! We will post information at sahuarocougars.org and the Foundation Facebook page. email jeff@sahuarocougars.org



Reunions

As a service to alumni, the Cougar Foundation is pleased to link to reunion information and host pages when necessary. If there is something we don't have, please email jeff@sahuarocougars.org.

- Class of 1971 (external link)
- Class of 1976 (external link)
- Class of 1977 (external link)
- Class of 1978 (external link)

Sahuaro Saves thanks to Solar “System”

Project designed to offset ~60% of annual energy use, save district millions



John Mitman
Engineering & Development,
Natural Power and Energy

Construction of the Sahuaro HS solar project began in the Summer of 2018 after a significant duration of planning, design, and communication with all stakeholders beginning in the Winter of 2017.

This campus, much like all of the other TUSD solar projects, was designed to offset approximately 60% of the annual energy usage with solar power. Several meetings with staff, parents, students, and district personnel led to the current design with solar shade canopies being installed in the North and South parking lots.

The system is comprised of 3,150 solar modules at 340 Watts per unit (1,071 kilowatts) spread across 35 parking structures. This project is the single largest developed within TUSD, and will produce 1,906,380 kilowatt-hours of electricity each year or 57.05% of the annual energy usage previously purchased from Tucson Electric Power (TEP). In addition to solar energy generation, this project also replaces a significant amount of the 'old'

parking lot lighting fixtures with current generation LED's, which also enhances the uniformity of light in these areas.

Phase III of the TUSD solar project will encompass 33 sites with 11,059,527 Watts of power and produce 19,622,904 kilowatt-hours the first full year.

Over the full term of the contract, TUSD expects to save more than \$10 million from the Phase III solar project alone. When the final phase of the solar project is completed at TUSD, the district will own more environmental attributes (called 'Renewable Energy Credits') from the solar energy than any school district in the country, and by a significant margin.

Our companies are proud to partner with the District on this landmark solar portfolio, all of which was accomplished at no direct construction cost and with significant operational savings for TUSD.

