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# cityscape

*the monthly newsletter for City High School & Tucson Small School Project*

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## City High School Affiliates with Network of Small Schools

High Tech High Learning, a network of new small high schools, has accepted City High School as one of its fifteen affiliate schools. Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, High Tech High Learning will provide grant monies and technical assistance to help support the start-up of City High School over the next three years. At the hub of the network is High Tech High, a successful charter school in San Diego, now in its fifth year. Like City High School, High Tech High has as its central school design principles: personalization, engaging academic curriculum for all students, and real-world application of learning.

City High School sent a team of teachers and board members to High Tech High in February to visit the school and to attend workshops on curriculum development, facilities planning, and administrative issues. On March 11, Jed Wallace, director of HTH Learning, came to Tucson to do a site visit and meet with City High School staff. To learn more about High Tech High Learning, visit [www.hightechhigh.org](http://www.hightechhigh.org). To learn more about the Gates Foundation's support of new small schools, visit [www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org).

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learning. working.  
creating. connecting.

CITY HIGH SCHOOL strives to be a community of learners in which all members use their minds well and care about one another. We engage with challenging academics and the unique resources of our city and region in order to become active citizens and responsible stewards of our world.

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TUCSON SMALL SCHOOL PROJECT is a nonprofit organization with two primary purposes: to start and sustain City High School, a new charter high school in downtown Tucson; and to promote dialogue and professional development that foster smaller, more equitable learning communities for all students. TSSP is an Arizona corporation with 501(c)3 tax-exempt status.



*City High School students and youth writers and photographers from Voices, Inc. talk outside 48 East Pennington Street.*

## Información en Español

Ahora tenemos información sobre el programa académico de City High School traducido en español. Si Usted prefiere – o conoce a alguien que prefiere – nuestros materiales en español, por favor llámenos a la oficina para pedirlos. Si quiere hablar con alguien en español para conocer a la escuela mejor, puede visitar o llamar a la directora, Carrie Brennan. El número es 623-7223. También hay secciones españolas en nuestro website: [www.cityhighschool.org](http://www.cityhighschool.org)

We now have information about the academic program at City High School in Spanish. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive these materials, please call the City High School office to request them. If you want to talk with someone to learn more about the school, call or visit the director, Carrie Brennan. In addition, there are Spanish sections on our website.

## ***Educators, Business Leaders, Artists, and Community Leaders Team Up on Tucson Small School Project Board***

**Eric Dhruv** earned his Bachelor of Science from the University of Arizona in Wildlife Biology. After several years of fieldwork in such places as Alaska, Arizona and Papua New Guinea, Eric worked for six years at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum as an environmental educator and interpretive manager. Eric recently earned an MA from Prescott College in Place-Based Education and is employed as a naturalist at Miraval~Life in Balance Resort in Catalina. Eric's educational and ecological perspectives on the TSSP Board will contribute to the development of City High School. He is passionate about the Sonoran Desert, the Tucson community, and the holistic and authentic approach to student learning that is a driving force behind City High School.

**Suzanne Dhruv** is currently pursuing a Master's of Arts degree in Environmental Education, emphasizing adolescent development. This academic engagement builds upon her undergraduate degree in ecology and evolutionary biology, as well as her professional experience as an educator and administrator with several local non-profit organizations. Her passion to connect adolescents with the natural world through direct, personal experiences is fueled by her love for the Sonoran Desert and the personal challenges adolescents overcome by exploring nature. Her active participation in City High School will benefit the students by providing opportunities for them to fully engage in and appreciate the uniqueness of the Sonoran region.

**Brett Goble** is a founding board member of Tucson Small School Project. Brett's academic expertise is in history and economics, and he has extensive experience developing social studies and interdisciplinary curriculum. Currently, he teaches world humanities at Catalina Foothills High School. Brett is a member of the National School Reform Faculty and a skilled facilitator of collaborative professional development for teachers. He is committed to making City High School a learning community where educators and students work together on projects that have value beyond the school itself. Brett grew up in Hereford, Arizona, and he brings a deep knowledge and appreciation of southern Arizona to his work at City High School. Prior to a career in education, Brett worked in sales management and nonprofit administration.

**Dr. Anne-Marie Hall** is Director of the Southern Arizona Writing Project, a federally funded and affiliated program with the renowned National Writing Project. This is a collaborative program between higher education and K-12 schools that seeks to improve the learning and teaching of writing in our nation through innovative programs for teachers. In addition, Anne-Marie teaches graduate courses in the Department of English at The University of Arizona; her specialties include ethnographic research, comparative pedagogies, research methodologies, and pedagogy and theory about the teaching of writing. She also works with the Writing Program, developing and revising the curriculum for first-year composition and training graduate students to teach composition. She is excited to be involved in City High School because of the immense talents of the director and teachers and because their mission is courageous and fresh.

**TUCSON SMALL SCHOOL PROJECT (TSSP)** is a nonprofit organization with two primary purposes: to start and sustain City High School, a new charter high school in downtown Tucson; and to promote dialogue and professional development that foster smaller, more equitable learning communities for all students.

TSSP was founded in May 2002 and incorporated six months later. On March 10, 2004 TSSP was recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit organization.



*TSSP Board Members Eve Rifkin and Brett Goble met with members of the pioneer class of City High School on February 18. The next student steering committee meeting will be April 1. All students are welcome to participate.*

**Nancy Linnon** is a writer and teacher of writing whose passion for school reform started when she worked as an education reporter for *U.S. News & World Report* in the 1980s. Nancy left journalism and pursued her masters of arts in teaching at Brown University, where she worked with Ted Sizer and the Coalition of Essential Schools. Nancy has taught writing to children, high school, college, and adult students for the past fifteen years. All of her teaching comes from a deep belief in every person's ability to write and the profound personal power that can be accessed through writing. Nancy has published her own creative nonfiction and memoir writing; in addition, she is the co-author of a forthcoming book on educational change with Patricia Wasley. She is on the TSSP board because she wants to contribute to making City High School the kind of school teenagers deserve—small and caring, where work is challenging and connected with the real world. Nancy looks forward to her young son, Jake, attending City High School in 2015.

**Ann Modica** spent 32 years teaching high school mathematics with great enthusiasm. A second generation native of Tucson, Ann values the uniqueness of the city and all of Southeastern Arizona. She believes strongly in creating schools where the opinions of teachers, students, and parents matter. As Co-Director of the Center for the Recruitment & Retention of Secondary School Mathematics Teachers, Ann supervises student teachers at the University of Arizona and teaches a graduate level course in math methods as part of the College of Education's Teach for Tucson Program. Among other honors, Ann won a Presidential Award of Excellence for outstanding mathematics teaching in 1996.

**Leslie Cho Newman** is currently Assistant Coordinator for Art In Reality (AIR), a free arts program for Tucson youth, ages 14 to 21. AIR is funded and supported by Pima County Youth Services and administered by the City of Tucson. Leslie received a masters in bilingual education with a focus on popular education. Her interest is in promoting community efforts and hooking youth into creative, inspiring, healthy, and motivating activities and environments. She wants to broaden young people's sense of what is possible and the circle they can call family. Growing up in the Foreign Service and coming from a bicultural family has given her a deep appreciation of the world, its languages, and of course, its people. Leslie lives in the Barrio Historico with her crazy dog Albert.

**Diana Olivares** was born in Mexico and immigrated to the United States in 1973. She graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in Spanish and minors in both Mexican-American Studies and Theater Arts. Diana is trained in Asset Based Community Development and has extensive experience working on community projects in the Tucson area. She is a volunteer with the Southern Arizona Aids Foundation and worked on youth programs with Pima Prevention Partnership for two years. Currently, Diana works with PRO Neighborhoods, managing grants and providing technical assistance to grassroots groups and neighborhoods for community-based projects. She is excited to bring her experience to the TSSP Board in support of City High School's efforts to build relationships among its students and our community.

**Ted Ranney** brings a masters in business administration and over a decade of experience as an organizational leader to the TSSP Board. In his current position as CEO of Pima Heart Physicians, he is responsible for strategic planning, financial resources, employee management, and attainment of profit goals. Ted's two daughters attend Khalsa Montessori, an elementary charter school in Tucson. As both a parent and a member of the business community, Ted is supportive of the educational opportunities charter schools offer and is eager to help with the development of City High School.

**Eve Rifkin** is a founding board member of Tucson Small School Project, and she looks forward to working with City High School kids both in the classroom and in the community. Eve is working hard to forge partnerships between City High School and arts, cultural, and education organizations in Tucson in order to make learning come alive for students. She brings ten years of teaching Humanities, English and Journalism, along with a masters degree in Educational Leadership, to the TSSP Board. Eve has participated in a Critical Friends Group and been an active member of the National School Reform Faculty throughout her teaching career. In 2003 she earned recognition by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards as a National Board Certified Teacher, the first teacher in Catalina Foothills School District to achieve this distinction.

*Past board members include Carrie Brennan and Tom Groh; they both served on the TSSP Board from November 2002 to March 2004.*

# CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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## LOCATION:

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## OFFICE:

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## WEBSITE:

[www.cityhighschool.org](http://www.cityhighschool.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

(All events take place at 48 East Pennington St. unless noted otherwise.)

### March

- 3/12 5:00 p.m. City High School **Open Enrollment Deadline**
- 3/13 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. **Spring Symposium** on School Improvement at Catalina Foothills High School
- 3/18 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project **Board Meeting**
- 3/23 7:00-8:00 p.m. City High School **Information Session**
- 3/25 5:00-6:30 p.m. City High School presentation at the **Southside Community Charter School** high school night
- 6:00-7:30 p.m. **City Works** Planning Meeting
- 7:00-8:30 p.m. **Science & Math Curriculum** Meeting

### April

- 4/1 6:00-8:00 p.m. **Student Steering Committee & Parent Meeting**
- 4/15 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tucson Small School Project **Board Meeting**
- 4/16 4:00-5:30 p.m. **Technology Advisory Committee** Meeting
- 4/20 7:00-8:00 p.m. City High School **Information Session**
- 4/29 5:30-7:00 p.m. **Humanities Curriculum** Meeting

This issue and past issues of CITYSCAPE are available on our website. Please call or email us to be added to the City High School mailing list.

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