



# Arizona Academic Decathlon Association

ANNUAL REPORT

2014

# A Message From The President

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*“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” — William Butler Yeats*

The 2013–2014 school year marked the 30th year that the Arizona Academic Decathlon Association (AADA) has been in existence, serving the students of Arizona and encouraging them to strive for academic excellence. While AADA’s mission is to encourage and promote educational achievements in “students of all scholastic achievement levels,” the Academic Decathlon is also an experience that changes students’ lives.

On the surface, Academic Decathlon may seem like nothing more than a simple competition that tests students’ knowledge in 10 subject areas. But dig a little deeper, and what is revealed is an experience that has no parallel in high school education. This year-long endeavor arms students with study skills; empowers them with professional communication abilities; instills in them the values of both personal initiative and teamwork; and ignites within them a passion for lifelong learning.

The Arizona Academic Decathlon has a national reputation for excellence. An Arizona team has placed in the top five at United States Academic Decathlon (USAD) competition 23 times. This year, Arizona was able to send two top teams to the national competition: Canyon del Oro High School was the top scoring school at the 2014 state competition followed closely by the second-place team from Boulder Creek High School. Both teams competed in the large school category at the 2014 USAD National Competition. Boulder Creek placed sixth, and Canyon del Oro placed seventh



*Seton Catholic High School won the 3A Trophy in the State Competition. Seton also represented Arizona in the USAD Medium School Online National Competition and placed fourth overall.*

overall in the nation out of 53 teams. They brought home 11 medals, and Boulder Creek won the “Rookie of the Year” award. In addition, Basis Chandler High School represented Arizona at the USAD Small Schools Online Competition and was honored as fourth in the nation. Seton Catholic High School represented Arizona in the Medium Schools Online Competition and placed fourth in their category. Congratulations to these hardworking teams! As a board, we are proud of the achievements of all of our students and competitors.

The AADA has successfully evolved from an organization that could no longer count on guaranteed state funding to one that relies on relationships with generous benefactors. We are incredibly grateful for our new partnerships with organizations like Wells Fargo, the Helios

Foundation and the Arizona School Boards Association, as well as renewed sponsorships from Intel and SRP and the support of many other corporations, foundations and individuals.

On behalf of the board of directors, I thank the students, coaches and school administrators involved in and supportive of the Academic Decathlon program. And most importantly, I thank the parents, families and friends of the decathletes, who support, encourage and assist them in succeeding in this program. Without all of you, the Arizona Academic Decathlon would not be as successful as it is.

*Warm Regards,  
Mike Hutchinson, President  
Arizona Academic Decathlon Association,  
2013–2014*

# What Is Academic Decathlon?

The Arizona Academic Decathlon Association (AADA) is affiliated with the United States Academic Decathlon.

## Mission

Our mission is to promote, motivate and acknowledge excellence in academic efforts and educational achievement through a program of academic competitions for high school students of all scholastic achievement levels.

## Goals

Our goals are to encourage students to excel in academic pursuits by promoting enthusiasm for learning, developing a spirit of competition, working as a member of a team, participating in peer tutoring, undertaking interdisciplinary study, acquiring an understanding of the fine arts and

increasing communication skills.

AADA also strives to improve the total educational program in Arizona by promoting the importance of excellence in broad academic performance, motivating students to reach their fullest potential and establishing a positive image of students in our communities.

We also encourage community and business involvement and support of academic excellence through contribution of funds, time, talent and/or materials.

## Program Overview

An Academic Decathlon team creates a positive school image,

creates academic role models, changes student attitudes, involves the community and develops future community leaders. The Decathlon experience builds skills for life: self-assurance, competitiveness, communication and teamwork.

A Decathlon team is made up of three Honor students ("A" grade level), three Scholastic students ("B" level) and three Varsity students ("C" level). All students compete in all 10 events: Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Economics, Language & Literature, Interview, Speech, Essay and Super Quiz (Social Science).

## Scholarships and Awards

Scholarships are awarded to students winning individual events and to overall winners. In each event, there are also gold, silver and bronze medals in each student category. There are team awards in the Super Quiz and for overall ranking. In addition, there is a small-schools division in which trophies are awarded.

## Scope of AADA

Academic Decathlon programs are active in 40 states. More than 30,000 students compete nationwide. Eighty Arizona high schools participated in 2013–2014, with more than 900 students competing and more than 2,000 enrolled in the program.



Boulder Creek High School took first place in Region II. They went on to place second in the State Competition, earning a trip to the USAD National Competition where they placed sixth in their division and sixth overall out of 53 teams.

# Academic Decathlon Roundup

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## Top 10 State Winners

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1. Canyon del Oro
2. Boulder Creek
3. Mountain View (Mesa)
4. Westwood
5. Red Mountain
6. Hamilton
7. Cesar Chavez
8. Buena
9. Seton Catholic

## Class Champions

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- 5A** Boulder Creek  
**4A** Canyon del Oro  
**3A** Seton Catholic  
**2A** Benson  
**1A** Basis Chandler  
**Rookie of the Year** — Alhambra High School  
**Most Improved Team** — Boulder Creek High School  
**Highest Individual Score** — Christopher Balzar, Boulder Creek High School

## National Results

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Two teams represented Arizona in the National Competition: Boulder Creek (Anthem) finished sixth overall and sixth in the large school division, and Canyon del Oro (Tucson) finished seventh overall and seventh in the large school division out of the 53 teams that competed at the USAD National finals in Honolulu, Hawaii, April 24–27. The theme of the competition was “World War I.” The Boulder Creek team is coached by Liz and Peter Erickson, and the Canyon del Oro team is coached by Chris Yetman.

## 2014 Participating Schools (District)

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### REGION I (9)

Chino Valley  
Hopi Jr./Sr.  
James Madison Prep  
Kingman Academy  
of Learning  
Payson  
Prescott  
Show Low  
Snowflake  
St. Johns

### REGION II (27)

Alhambra  
Apollo  
Arizona Conservatory  
for the Arts  
Barry Goldwater  
Basis Peoria  
Betty Fairfax  
Bioscience  
Boulder Creek  
Camelback  
Carl Hayden  
Central  
Cesar Chavez  
Cortez  
Deer Valley  
Greenway  
Independence  
Maryvale  
Metro Tech  
Moon Valley  
Mountain Ridge  
North  
South Mountain  
Sunnyslope  
Thunderbird  
Trevor Brown  
Xavier College  
Preparatory  
Washington

### REGION III (17)

Amphitheater  
Benson  
Buena  
Canyon del Oro  
Catalina Foothills  
Cibola  
Flowing Wells  
Gila Ridge  
Kofa  
Marana  
Mountain View (Marana)  
Sunnyside  
Tombstone  
University  
Vista Grande  
Walden Grove  
Yuma

### REGION IV (20)

Apache Junction  
Basha  
Basis Chandler  
Campo Verde  
Desert Ridge  
Dobson  
Fountain Hills  
Gilbert Classical  
Academy  
Grand Canyon  
Preparatory  
Hamilton  
Highland  
Marcos de Niza  
Mesa  
Mountain View (Mesa)  
Queen Creek  
Red Mountain  
Saguaro  
Seton Catholic  
Skyline  
Westwood

# Partners and Volunteers

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*We express our deepest gratitude to the following organizations and individuals that make AADA possible.*

## Sponsors and Donors

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### PRESENTING SPONSOR — \$15,000

Wells Fargo Foundation

### HONORS — \$10,000–\$14,999

SRP

Helios Education Foundation/Ms. Jane Roig

### SCHOLASTIC — \$5,000 –\$9,999

Arizona School Boards Association

Intel Corporation

Arizona Public Service

Craig and Barbara Barrett

Fiesta Bowl Charities

### VARSITY — \$1,000 –\$4,999

USAD Grant

Jeni and Steve Panhorst

E.V. O'Malley

Mountain Pointe Parents Club

### SCHOLAR — \$500–\$999

Mike and Marcie Hutchinson

Wayne Kirby

Jennifer McDonald

### FRIENDS OF DECATHLON — \$10–\$499

Anita Lohr

David Hansen

Nick Rodriguez

Wally Delecki

Sherwood and

Jane Parker

Amber Trumbull

Missy Pizzo

Mindy Udall Schulte

Anne Greenberg

### IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

SRP

Arizona Education Association

Mesa School District

Arizona State University

Arizona Department of Education

### Volunteer Coordinators

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**Competition** — Anne Edelstein

**Essay** — Greta Baranowski

**Interview** — Sarah Morris

**State School Site Coordinator** — Missy Pizzo

**Speech** — Andrew Stevens and Lucas Hawthorne

**Super Quiz** — Casey Thomas

**Testing** — Judi Willis and Marcie Hutchinson

**Scoring** — Jason Burch

**Volunteers** — Anne Edelstein

**Region I** — Laurel Wala

**Region II** — Sharon Bernero

**Region III** — John Kneup

**Region IV** — Maja Aleksic, Therese Schmisser and

Tamara Kahler



*Basis Chandler High School won the Rookie of the Year Award along with taking the 1A Trophy at the State Competition. They represented Arizona in the USAD Small School Online Competition taking fourth place.*

# Fiscal Year End June 30, 2014 vs. 2015 Budget

Arizona Academic Decathlon Association, Inc.

	Actual 2013-2014	Budget 2014-2015
<b>Income</b>		
Corporate and Private Donations .....	\$29,450	\$34,000
Board Members .....	8,570	5,050
Grants — Foundations/Schools.....	35,815	32,500
School Participation Fees .....	45,600	48,700
Interest/Dividend Income.....	175	300
Special Events and Other .....	3,000	0
Total.....	122,610	120,550
In-Kind Donations.....	14,000	13,000
<b>Program Expenses</b>		
Scholarships Awarded .....	20,000	0
Competition and Other Program Expenses .....	40,282	54,900
Allocated Personnel Costs* .....	52,466	52,500
Total.....	112,748	107,400
<b>General and Administrative</b>		
Personnel Costs .....	13,115	13,200
Other Administrative Costs.....	11,773	12,950
Total General and Administrative.....	24,889	26,150
<b>Total Costs .....</b>	<b>137,637</b>	<b>133,550</b>
<b>Operating Change in Net Assets.....</b>	<b>&lt;1,027&gt;</b>	<b>0</b>



The State Super Quiz Relay was held again at Arizona State University West in its new Fitness Facility.

# Arizona Academic Decathlon Board of Directors 2013–2014

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## Officers

### President

**Mr. Michael Hutchinson**  
COMMUNITY MEMBER

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INTEL CORPORATION

### Secretary

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COMMUNITY MEMBER

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MANSPERGER PATTERSON & McMULLIN

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STATE DIRECTOR

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**Mr. Kevin Rolfe, Community Outreach**  
SRP

**Mr. Andrew Stevens**  
CENTER FOR EXECUTIVE MEDICINE

**Ms. Casey Thomas, Representative**  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Ms. Amber Trumbull, Representative**  
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CONNOLLY MIDDLE SCHOOL



*Benson High School took the 2A Trophy at the State Competition. It was the first time they have placed at the State Competition.*

## Advisory Board Members

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YUMA COUNTY SCHOOLS

## 2014–2015 Academic Decathlon Theme

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*The theme for the 2014–2015 Academic Decathlon is “New Alternatives in Energy.”*

Students in Arizona have already started their preparation for the 2015 competition.

The 2015 regional competitions will be held on Feb. 6 and 7 at four sites: Region I at Payson High School; Region II at Thunderbird High School; Region III at Walden Grove High School; and Region IV at Hamilton High School. The state competition will be held March 13–14 at ASU Polytechnic. The national competition will be held in Garden Grove, California, April 16–18, 2015.



*Canyon del Oro High School from Tucson won the First Place Team Award at the State Competition along with taking first place at the Region III competition. Canyon del Oro went on to represent Arizona at the USAD National Competition in Honolulu, Hawaii, placing seventh overall in the competition.*

**Photos courtesy of Duke Photography**



### **Arizona Academic Decathlon Association**

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