

# SUE TILLIS

8625 E. Rancho Circle

886-7803 (home)

940-2027 (cell)

suetillis@yahoo.com

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

1989 – 2016 Sunnyside School District Tucson, Arizona

### *Director of Special Education*

- Responsible for all special education activities and associated services (Psychology, Special Education, Preschool, Related Services, Paraprofessionals)
- Ensure district compliance with Federal and State mandates, policies and reports
- Supervise delivery of special education services and oversee instructional practices
- Recommend curriculum and assessment modifications as appropriate
- Grant management – Federal and State Grants in excess of \$3 million
- Budget and procurement – prepare budget, submit requisitions for bid, receive supplies and materials for special education department, all special education staff in 20 schools, and to meet the individual needs of particular students
- First level screening of all applicants for hiring teaching or paraprofessional positions. Assist principals with the paperwork and procedures for hiring special education personnel
- Direct and collaborative (with principals) supervision and evaluation of special education staff
- Supervision of the Medicaid Reimbursement program, both administrative claims and direct service claims
- On-going inservice and training sessions for all special education staff regarding policies, practices, compliance, communication skills, parent involvement in the Special Education Process, assessment, state and federal legislation and regulations.

2004 - 2012 University of Phoenix Tucson, Arizona

### *Instructor*

Special Education Program Administration

Survey of Special Populations

Communications

Cross-Categorical - Methods

1972-1989

### *Special Education Teacher*

- Self-Contained Cross-Categorical
- Self-Contained Mildly Mentally Retarded
- Learning Disabilities Resource
- Career Ladder Coordinator – Staff Development and Pay for Performance

## EDUCATION

---

University of Arizona – Tucson, Arizona

- Certificate of Educational Supervision – 1986-1987
- M.A., Reading – 1978-1980
- B.A., Special Education – 1968-1972

## CERTIFICATION

---

- Arizona K-12 Supervision
- Arizona K-12 Special Education (MR, LD)
- Arizona Elementary Education K-8
- SEI Endorsement
- Reading Specialist Endorsement

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

---

- 1990-Present Southern Arizona Special Education Administrators (Chairman – 1990, 1997) – Collaboration and training with other special education administrators from public and charter schools in southern Arizona
- 1997-2007 Arizona Department of Education, Special Education Advisory Panel for Individuals with Disabilities (Chairman – 1998-1999) – Advise the Arizona State Board of Education, Arizona Department of Education and the State Superintendent of Education on matters related to the provision of services to disabled students throughout the state.
- 1999-2008 Arizona School Health Insurance Programs Technical Advisory Committee – Advise the state agency on Medicaid reimbursement implementation and practices in public schools (chairperson 2003).
- Arizona Department of Education Committees
  - IEP
  - EDP Funding
  - Professional Development Task Force
  - Annual Data Collection

## TRAINING

---

See Attachment A

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

---

- Special Education Policies and Procedures – Sunnyside School District
- Differentiated Instruction – Sunnyside School District
- Nuts and Bolts of the IEP – Council for Exceptional Children
- Special Education Discipline – Southern Arizona Educational Leadership Consortium
- Discipline for Students with Disabilities - Sunnyside School District
- Inclusion Support for General and Special Education Teachers - Sunnyside School District
- Co-teaching Strategies - Sunnyside School District

## REFERENCES

---

- Dr. Alan Storm, Superintendent, Pima County JTED District, 352-5833
- Dr. Eugenia Favela, Assistant Superintendent - Student Services, Sunnyside School District, 545-2066
- Steve Holmes, Superintendent, Sunnyside School District, 545-2025
- Dr. Toni Sparks-Hopkins, University of Arizona, 360-7662

## Attachment A

annual	Legal Issues in Educating Individuals with Disabilities	LRP
annual	Monitoring Compliance	ADE
annual	SPED Director's Institute	ADE
2007-2012	Special Education Program Improvement – Daggott's Rigor, Relevance and Relationships Framework	International Center for Leadership in Education
2000	IDEA Statute and Regulation	OSEP – Wash DC
2000	Effective Practices for Children with Disabilities	CEC
2000	The Culture of Poverty	Ruby Payne
2001	Coaching and Practices for Creating Positive Teaching and Learning Environments for all Children	AZ Behavioral Initiative
2002	Sexual Harassment	SUSD
2003	Essential Facilitation for IEP Meetings	ADE
2003	Discipline for Individuals with Disabilities	LRP - CASE
2003	Behavior Strategies for New Teachers	ADE
2003	Differentiated Instruction	SUSD
2003	Effective Walkthrough Classroom Observations	School Solutions
2005	Constructive Dialogue	West Ed
2006	Qualified Evaluator Training – Level 4	SUSD
2006	Foundations of SEI	Bureau of Educational Research
2006	NCA – External Team Chair	NCA
2006	NCA Peer Review Team	NCA
2006	Instructional Coaching	West Ed
2007	Evaluation and Supervision	SUSD
2007	RTI	ADE
2008	Middle and High School Renewal	Innovative Programs
2009	IDEA, 504, NCLB and FERPA	ADE
2009	Courageous Leadership	Hope Foundation
2009	Wrightslaw Advocacy Training	Wrightslaw
2010	FBA/BIP	ADE
2010	Neurodiversity	ADE
2010	EI Refresher (original training 1985, 1988)	SUSD
2010	Student Engagement	ADE
2010	Graduation and FAPE	ADE
2011	Developing S3 Team Leadership	ADE

2011	Section 504 and SPED	SUSD
2011	Practices in Collaboration	SUSD
2012	Inclusion Support	SUSD
2012	Leadership Summit	SUSD
2012	Universal Design	LRP
2012	BEST - National Teacher Standards Rubric	SUSD
2012	Verbal De-escalation	SUSD
2013	Examining Student Work	SUSD
2013	Common Core	ADE
2013	Common Core	CEC
2014	Dual Labels – ELL/SPED	ADE
2015	Executive Functioning	PESI
2015	Deciphering the Discipline Procedures in the IDEA	ADE
2016	Students with Challenging Behavior	AZ Center for Disability Law