

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 22, 2025

Tempe Coalition announces Celebrating Champions for Youth awardees

Award recipients to be honored at the 9th annual ceremony on Oct. 30

Tempe, AZ – Tempe Coalition to Reduce Underage Drinking and Drug Use, a program of Tempe Community Council (TCC), is excited to announce the selection of award recipients to be honored at their 9th Annual Celebrating Champions for Youth awards ceremony. This event celebrates the individuals and organizations making a significant impact in the lives of local youth, helping them live to their full potential. Veteran sports broadcaster Kevin McCabe, widely known as “the Dean of Arizona High School Sports” with a career spanning over 46 years across the state and beyond, will serve as the emcee for the event.

Youth Champions

- Jordan Davis – Guadalupe Thunderbird Boys and Girls Club
- Richard Flores – Aprende Middle School
- Charlotte Gould – Corona del Sol High School
- Ryan Hesselbacher – Pueblo Middle School
- Sophie Jimenez – Desert Vista High School
- Saul Mendez – Tempe High School
- Zoe Nield – Corona del Sol High School
- Peer Solutions – Tempe High School

Adult Awards

- Inspiration – Coach Eric Lauer – Corona del Sol High School
- Advocate – Erin Smith – Marcos de Niza High School
- Protector – Detective Natalie Barela and Detective Pete Walters

“The Tempe Coalition is about helping our Tempe youth live to their full potential. All these honorees are doing that and more. It’s individuals and organizations like these that give the youth in our community the best chance to succeed, and we are proud to recognize them. Please join us at the annual ceremony to help honor these outstanding recipients.” stated Bernadette Coggins, Tempe Coalition Director.

The awards ceremony will bring together community members, civic leaders, and honorees to celebrate the contributions of this year’s award recipients. The 9th Annual Celebrating Champions for Youth event is free and takes place Thursday, Oct. 30 at 6:00 p.m. at the Tempe Union High School District Professional Learning Center.

For event registration and details, please visit www.tempecoalition.org.

Media Contact:

About the Tempe Coalition

The Tempe Coalition is a community-based organization made up of local residents and professionals dedicated to reducing youth risk behaviors and promoting health and wellness among Tempe youth. Through education, advocacy, awareness, and connection to community resources, the Coalition works to ensure all young people in Tempe have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Representing a wide range of sectors, including business, media, law enforcement, education, healthcare, government, and faith-based organizations—the Coalition brings the community together to create a safer, healthier Tempe. For more information on how to get involved, visit <https://tempecoalition.org>.

About Tempe Community Council

Founded in 1972, Tempe Community Council (TCC) is a community-based 501(c)3 nonprofit focused on encouraging resident interaction and enhancing human services in Tempe. TCC brings together the community—including government, nonprofits, faith groups and residents—to support Tempeans in need, plan for present and future needs, and build an enduring foundation.