



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **REALTORS® Host Award Ceremony for High School Financial Literacy Program**

*Innovative educational program teaching students financial literacy*

Tucson, AZ. – (December 15, 2011) — The Tucson Association of REALTORS® recognized seven high school students Wednesday evening for essays they wrote on what it takes to be a successful home owner.

Over 450 students from Cienega, Tanque Verde, Cholla Magnet and Pueblo Magnet High Schools learned about financial literacy and home ownership this fall from members of the Tucson Association of REALTORS® Housing Opportunities Committee as part of their “From High School to Home Ownership” Program.

As a conclusion to each semester of the program, students are encouraged to submit essays based on what they learned in the program. The Association would like to recognize the winners of the essay competition: First Place: Kim Franzen, Cienega High School, Second Place: Kenna McCaskill, Cienega High School and Third Place: Lauren King, Cienega High School. Honorable mentions: Jordan Herrick, Cienega High School, Danielle George, Cienega High School, Crystal Valentine, Cholla High Magnet School and Alexis Montano, Pueblo Magnet High School.

The program is designed to help students take a critical look at their future financial responsibilities and the process of purchasing or renting a home. Students learn how their behavior with money and credit in their teen years can have long-term consequences regarding their ability to rent or buy a home in the future.

“In today’s economy, it’s vital to teach the financial habits necessary to have a successful future,” said Tom Heath, chair of the Housing Opportunities committee. “This program challenges high school students to take a critical look at their financial future.”

#### *How to Sign Up:*

Other area high schools interested in joining the program should contact Christine Sanchez at (520) 382-8776 or [christine@tucsonrealtors.org](mailto:christine@tucsonrealtors.org).

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