

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SEVRAR Announces the 2016 Citizen of the Year Award

Mesa, AZ – **SouthEast Valley Regional Association of REALTORS® (SEVRAR)** has announced the **2016 Citizen of the Year award**. SEVRAR is one of the most trusted resources for real estate information in Arizona.

The purpose of this prestigious award is to recognize an individual in the Southeast Valley who has dedicated themselves to enhancing the community through their selfless volunteerism and generosity. SEVRAR members were encouraged to nominate a member in the community (unaffiliated with SEVRAR) who has passion for volunteerism and giving back to others.

This year's citizen award recipient, **Jennifer Callender**, is a prime example of selflessness and lifelong volunteerism. Her dedication is often seen from the countless hours given to help start a small public high school, Crossroads Academy, which acts like an "academic center" for students who want to take control of their own education. "The school would not be successful without the continual financial support of family and friends," Callender said. The online school is affiliated with Sequoia Choice Arizona Distance Learning School in Mesa, AZ. These students frequently desire to work ahead or have a strong aspiration to catch up. Currently, Crossroads Academy is holding classes in a truck stop meeting room, but they are in the process of expanding to its own physical building in 2017.

For the past four years, Callender has devoted her time and personal resources to support a dream of building a school for students in her community who could graduate with a high school diploma and the possibility of continuing on to a higher level of learning. **Crossroads Academy** was developed and named from the belief, "that each high school student is at their own *crossroads* in life and we would like to help them choose a path of education," said Callender. [Co-Founder of Crossroads Academy in Tonopah, AZ]

Kathy Mayus, SEVRAR REALTOR® member, says, "Jennifer pays it forward on a day-to-day basis with her dedication, tenacity and passion, which accumulates into inspiration, care and support that lasts a lifetime." She mentioned that Callender facilitates the educational classes five days a week, drives the bus, buys the student's supplies and pays for their lunches; without ever accepting a paycheck.

Crossroads Academy was founded in 2013 with the belief that every student has the ability to learn-given the proper time and attention. Over the past three years, Crossroads Academy has



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helped more than 30 students improve their study habits, comprehension and earn college and high school credits! “As a result, these students have earned better test scores and grades, and have grown in self-esteem and confidence,” Callender said. “We love celebrating the victories with our students.”

About SEVRAR

The SouthEast Valley Regional Association of REALTORS® (SEVRAR) is located in Mesa, AZ and serves more than 12,000 members in the Southeast Valley. Our goal is to support the communities in which our members live, work and play, and together, promote and protect the quality of life enjoyed throughout the Southeast Valley. For further information, please visit <http://SEVRAR.com>.

About Crossroads Academy

Tonopah Academic Center (TAC) is an online charter high school that offers high school and dual-enrollment course with Rio Salado College. *Crossroads Academy* provides a positive learning experience with an alternative curriculum and schedule to acquire the necessary knowledge and skills to become successful, productive contributors to society. For further information, please visit Crossroads Academy at Tonopah Academic Center website <http://www.crossroadsacad.com>.

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