

Cindy Rankin Elliott

Pima JTED – District 2



Hello – I'm Cindy Rankin Elliott and have been teaching most of my adult life, initially at nursery school and high schools, now with 40+ years experience teaching physiology at the university level (UCLA & University of Arizona), gathering multiple teaching awards along the way. Driven by questions about how things work and why the body is able to do what it does, my approach to science and education is based on hands-on learning and getting involved in activities that prepare students for life and a satisfying career beyond school.

School board elections are nonpartisan, and I am delighted to be running for re-election to the Pima JTED Governing Board District #2. As a long-time Tucson resident, I am committed to providing the most effective and productive career-related opportunities to all high school students across Southern Arizona.

Born in Southern California, I spent the first 28 years following my passions for the outdoors and learning how the body works. As a longtime Girl Scout and then by teaching high school and UCLA students, I was able to merge those two passions.

In 1979 I moved to Tucson to pursue a PhD in Physiology at University of Arizona. Since then, I have focused on developing innovative classes and programs at both UofA and Pima JTED that help students learn how their bodies work while gathering hands-on experiences and skills that facilitate their success in life and careers in whatever path they follow.

My husband Tom Elliott and I have now called Tucson home for 40+ years, and have worked to help others enjoy life surrounded by the beautiful Sonoran Desert.

As a Professor of Physiology, I have been able to establish a vast network across the Tucson community to enhance student opportunities for learning and real-world experiences.

As a Pima JTED Governing Board member for the past 11 years, I have had a significant impact on the expansion of the full range of JTED's career preparation programs, including the new Innovation Tech High School which pairs high school academic classes with Pima JTED Career/Workforce preparation programs such as precision welding, robotics and manufacturing, automotive, mining and culinary arts, and The Mel and Enid Zuckerman Center for Health and Medical Science Careers to decrease the shortage of trained healthcare workers.

If re-elected, I plan to continue:

- Expanding access for high school students to training in the technical and professional skills necessary for life and satisfying careers
- Promoting hands-on learning for students to get involved in activities that prepare them for life and a meaningful career beyond school
- Integrating the large network of JTED programs in local high schools and central hub schools to maximize opportunities for Southern Arizona high school students
- Developing avenues for connecting JTED programs with UofA students and faculty who can serve as resources, role models and mentors
- Collaborating across Southern Arizona industry and career expertise to increase opportunities and internships for JTED students