

## **Top counselor named**

Joseph Hurtado, an intervention counselor at Townsend Junior High in Chino Hills, has been named Counselor of the Year for 2015 by the Associated Chino Teachers union.

Mr. Hurtado joined the Chino Valley Unified School District in 2007 as a counselor at Townsend.

“When I first began counseling, there was a need to improve school climate and to create positive relationships among students,” Hurtado said. Five years ago, he collaborated with the Townsend principal to pilot a Safe School Ambassador anti-bullying program at the campus. That program, aimed at reducing bullying, fighting, and creating positive relationships among students, has been in place since 2010 and is now available at several Chino Valley Unified School District sites.

“Our goal as counselors is to ensure each student has the ability to identify their strengths, explore their talents and skills, and develop a healthy mindset for lifelong success,” Hurtado said. “This would not be possible without the help of the amazing staff at Townsend Junior High School: teachers, support staff, parents and administration. We all connect students to programs such as AVID, Safe School Ambassador, academics, activities, athletics, and performing arts, etc. to successfully transition them into high school.”