

# Press Release

Nogales Unified School District #1

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Nogales Mariachi Apache garners \$40,000 NEA grant

The National Endowment of the Arts has awarded the Nogales High School mariachi program its second grant in two years, this time for \$40,000.

There were 22 NEA grants given out to Arizona with a total of \$1,495,000 in allocations, and NHS was the only high school to earn the award. All the other recipients were art commissions, councils, and organizations associated with universities.

Mariachi Director Gilbert Velez said the funding will be used this year to purchase uniforms, instruments, pay for extended music learning experiences during the summer and school year, and to pay for participation in competitions in Arizona and California.

In addition, an approved use of the grant funding was the purchase of a Smartboard, an interactive device connected to the Internet that will allow students to work with renowned experts and also to view musical performances from around the world.

The grant provided last year was for \$35,000 and included funding to purchase a harp, which, Velez said, will add a new dimension to the mariachi performances.

The Mariachi Apache, the performing group, has played dozens of times throughout the year at schools, community events, concerts, competitions, and conventions to high accolades wherever they go. They have been ranked among the best mariachi groups in the nation