

RITE NOW @ ROP



Southwest Leadership Academy, ROP's alternative charter high school in Phoenix was the first Arizona school district to receive recognition as a Woz Pathways School at a meeting with Apple Co-Founder, Steve Wozniak. Brian Heath, a member of the SLA Governing Board and ROP's SW Executive Director, accepted the award and recognition for the school during the annual DesTech Technology conference held in Phoenix, the largest technology conference held in the state.

Southwest Leadership started using programs designed by Woz Education personnel two years ago beginning with drone management and piloting, taught by the school's principal, Dr. Gregory Fowler. Also, this past week, Dr. Fowler and an SLA student presented their program and the impact on SLA students during a national conference in Baltimore, all paid by Woz Education.

During the same year, coding and cyber security were taught within the regular curriculum classes taught by teacher, Eric Thomas, but this year, SLA added 3-D printing (engineering design) and mobile applications development to the STEM offerings at the school thereby positioning it as the first Woz Pathways School in the State. SLA's IT specialist Oscar Rios teaches these classes to students. One other school in Florida also received this recognition at this year's conference. Woz Education provides all the teacher training, supplies, equipment, and curriculum for each program.

The Woz Foundation has also funded approximately 30% of the costs of these programs as part of Steve Wozniak's commitment to creating STEM education opportunities in schools around the country. In the future, SLA intends to add animation and artificial intelligence courses to the school's STEM program. In the meantime, Canyon State Academy, also in the SW region, will start its new drone program this Fall leading up to students competing their FAA 107 drone piloting license. High school graduates with an FAA 107 license can earn, right out of high school, \$50K-\$60K as commercial drone pilots.
