

# Arizona Daily Star

Estimated printed pages: 2

August 18, 2005

**Section:** EAST

**Page:** 6

## Help for struggling students *Kevin Smith, ARIZONA DAILY STAR*

Tutoring Solutions helps kids all over Tucson realize their potential/////Not every problem has a solution. Deborah Rodriguez thinks she has one.

Tutoring Solutions LLC is Rodriguez's startup business that has grown from helping struggling students on the East Side to citywide.

"I loved her," said Meagan Hinojosa, 14.

Hinojosa began getting tutored by Rodriguez last October and kept at it for about seven months. Her mom, Irma Hinojosa, found out about Tutoring Solutions from a local newsletter in Vail.

Rodriguez tutored Meagan and by the end of the school year had more than doubled her grade-point average.

"She knows what she's doing," said Irma Hinojosa.

Meagan said Rodriguez would often stay and chat and give advice after the tutoring session was over.

"She's just an excellent person," she said.

Rodriguez started Tutoring Solutions in 2003 as a lone tutor traveling to students' houses around the Vail area.

An Arizona native, Rodriguez has her masters in education from the University of Arizona, and has worked as a teacher for five years and in corporate education.

She said she started the business to help students succeed and achieve.

"It's just really a wonderful feeling," she said.

When a parent or student contacts Tutoring Solutions, Rodriguez does a free consultation to see if the program will be of benefit.

If she thinks the program would help, she meets with the client and develops a plan for success based on the student's needs.

"It's very customized," Rodriguez said.

From a bank of about a dozen, Rodriguez selects the tutor who would be the best fit for the student.

"It kind of has to be a match all around," she said.

The tutors all have had background checks done by a third party and must have a degree, according to Rodriguez. Currently on staff are some engineers helping with math and entomologists helping with science-related material.

Rodriguez said that if a student is having problems with science, it usually has a different root. "If they're having problems in science, they're having problems in math," she said.

Tutor Melissa Thach, 29, had been teaching at Gallego Elementary School in Tucson for five years before wanting to move to part-time work to become a stay-at-home mom.

She saw an ad for Tutoring Solutions and began with the company in April, tutoring in subjects such as reading and math.

She said she has adjusted to working one-on-one with students instead of a full class.

"It has its own rewards," she said.

Parents have a say in the approval of what material is covered, and Rodriguez likes to stay involved in the development of each student through weekly checkups.

"That's how I can guarantee results," she said.

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What you'll need to know

\* What: Tutoring Solutions LLC

\* Where: Citywide.

\* When: While school's in session, usually afternoons and evenings.

\* Who: Covers students from first grade to college.

\* Cost: Varies from one session, about \$50, to six-month packages at around \$1,600. Financial assistance and scholarships are available.

\* Subjects: Includes algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, chemistry, biology, reading, writing, study skills, organization and test-taking strategies.

\* For more information, call 250-9014 or visit [tutoringsolutions.net](http://tutoringsolutions.net).

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