

***2022 National ACE Teacher of the Year: Ms Lisa Medlyn***  
**Arts Academy at Estrella Mountain**  
**Tolleson, AZ**

**Lisa Medlyn began her time with CAP because her son, Cadet Nathan Medlyn, is a cadet in CAP's 388<sup>th</sup> Composite Squadron and she was told about the extraordinary free products and programs CAP provides Aerospace Education members.** She has only been an AE member for one year, but has embraced the membership and benefits by forming an after-school CAP Club for grades 5-8 and participating in the ACE and ACE Plus programs. The latter connects squadrons with classrooms, and her students are working with her son's squadron.

As for the ACE program, Ms Medlyn has taken this program and really put a great deal into it---for the students, she says. She is a passionate educator and seeks anything to help her students learn more and want to learn more. She is also an influential teacher with her peers. As she began the ACE program, her peer teachers wanted to join in--- and they did! The fifth grade at the school is now an ACE grade level!

This was Ms Medlyn's first year teaching the ACE program and it was a huge learning curve for her. Her background is language, not STEM. While it has been a challenge, it has been quite rewarding. She uses these lessons with her 5th grade class and with her after-school CAP Club. It is helpful that the ACE program standards align well with Arizona State Standards.

The quality of Ms Medlyn's efforts to do her best in any program she begins is evident as she did not just start with the ACE program. She also registered to be a part of the new ACE Plus Adopt program where she works with her son's squadron and the cadets and adults help teach the ACE lessons to her students. She said of the ACE Plus Adopt program, "The senior members and cadets are able to teach and explain content that I am learning myself. The kids love seeing the cadets and senior members in uniform and LOVE to show off their purple ACE shirts on Wednesday. The adopt program has allowed me to network with the squadron and the community. We had someone come to do a hot air balloon demonstration in April and another person doing a drone demonstration after that. The squadron has connections with several members in the community who are willing to support our programs. The ACE Plus program has had the greatest impact on my students. We are a Title I school. Many of our students are unaware of the career opportunities available to them in the future. But, I now have girls and boys talking about becoming engineers when they grow up!"

Ms Medlyn eagerly requested support from other CAP AE members and the local CAP squadron. She watched the ACE lesson videos on CAP's AE webpage. She reached out to other community members to supplement her aviation program, such as using the CAP STEM Kits and asking for support in sharing the drones and rockets with her students. She started with one lesson a month to build her confidence and the enthusiasm of her students. For a first time ACE teacher, we applaud Ms Medlyn's initiative and efforts to expand her students' educational opportunities via volunteers in the classroom. This is EXACTLY what the ACE program is intended to do!!

***CONGRATULATIONS, Ms Lisa Medlyn! Your passion to share CAP's ACE and ACE Plus programs with your 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, your 5<sup>th</sup> grade peer teachers, and your 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade CAP Club is impressive and appreciated!!!***





