In the last few months, Pathways staff and participating school personnel have been involved in important booster training sessions in many areas of the intervention.

Seven classroom teachers from the Tohono O’odham and Gila River sites participated in hands-on curriculum training February 1-2. The teachers paired up and selected one week of the curriculum to present to the rest of the teachers participating in the training. This was a very interactive, fun activity that provided a supportive atmosphere where teachers could provide feedback to each other on their presentation of the different lessons.

A professional PE trainer flew in from California in February to provide Pathways PE curriculum training to the Pathways PE teachers. The teachers participated in skill development for several PE lessons as well as learning other creative games and dances that can be taught to the Pathways children. Video cameras were set up during the training and reviewed by the PE teachers afterward to discuss ways in which everyone might enhance their teaching skills. This was a very successful method of evaluation- and the teachers enjoyed viewing themselves on camera!

The food service training was held on February 27th, during which the food service personnel reviewed Pathways healthy eating guidelines and food choices. The participants also had a nice surprise from SYSCO Foods, Inc. (the local food vendor). A SYSCO Company representative provided samples of the new low fat versions of foods now available to order, along with the corresponding nutritional information.

In mid-March, the Pathways Steering Committee Meeting took place in Tucson. All Pathways staff members from the five Universities and seven American Indian Communities participated in this annual event. All of the intervention working groups met to update the respective sites on past events that occurred at intervention schools and to discuss upcoming plans for the 5th grade.

Up-coming events in March and April at the Tohono O’odham and Gila River sites include a Great Race and Year End Celebration for all fourth grade students. Look for the informational flyers, which are being sent home with students. We look forward to seeing you at our next Pathways event!