



For Immediate Release

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**Pendergast District Receives its Third 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Center Grant**  
*Desert Horizon joins Pendergast and Amberlea Schools for STEM enrichment*

Phoenix Az. – July 14, 2014 – [Desert Horizon](#) Elementary was the third school in the Pendergast District to receive a [21st Century Learning Center Grant](#). This grant will not only enhance learning for students before and after school, but also infuse \$500,000 over 5 years into the school with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

With the addition of the 21st Century Grant, Desert Horizon will be able to offer additional academic and enrichment opportunities for students in 1st through 8th grades. There will be a minimum of 13 hours a week with students able to participate in activities put on by the [Arizona Science Center](#) and with Desert Horizon specially trained teachers. Additionally, as part of the grant, the Desert Horizon Community Garden will enable students and staff the opportunity to work on a community service learning project. Student practice [Kids at Hope](#) skills while participating in garden activities, and cultivating the [Boy's Town](#) philosophy working together to plant, maintain, and harvest the produce from the garden. The 21st Century grant will allow the school to continue the garden project as a sustainable yearly activity, and will expand the range of additional opportunities in which the school can involve the community, students and staff with the garden project.

Principal Susie Jaramillo is, “So excited to begin the grant in September after the staff has been trained. In addition to the STEM focus on learning, the library will have extended hours and technology classes will be offered afterschool and on Saturdays to allow for more participation. The effectiveness of the grant will be measured by academic growth, youth development, and family engagement.”

The 21st Century Community Learning Center grant will also allow for opportunities for parents and community to be involved in programming as well. The school will offer English as a Second Language (ESL) classes and GED classes for interested parents and community members.

PESD Superintendent Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux believes, “This vital grant demonstrates how our staff is always going the extra mile to help students. They look for opportunities to enhance their students’ achievement and grow their knowledge in science, technology, engineering and math. We are so very proud of their efforts.”

Board President Martín Quezada concurs. “Engaging the community and helping them increase their skills and access to our schools is what a PESD educational experience is all about. We look forward to seeing this new grant in action to benefit all students, staff, families and our community.”

Heather Bleau, 21st Century Grant Co-writer and Instructional Coach at Desert Horizon shares her zeal about the grant, “The 21st Century Grant is an exciting opportunity to provide highly motivating and engaging STEM enrichment opportunities to students while also being able to engage students to increase their math and reading scores. We look forward to increasing our family and community engagement through English as a Second Language and GED class offerings and providing academic support throughout the year.”

PESD schools begin August 4<sup>th</sup> and are currently accepting open enrollment. For further information about the grant or to enroll, contact Desert Horizon Elementary, 8525 W. Osborn, Phoenix, AZ 85037, 623-772-2430 or Principal Suzie Jaramillo at [sjaramillo@pesd92.org](mailto:sjaramillo@pesd92.org).

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