



For Immediate Release

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[Video, pictures and interviews available](#)

## **Pendergast Educator Published on Prestigious Edutopia Website** *Care, Captivate and Catapult are the 3 C's to Student Success*

Phoenix Az. – August 4, 2014 – Catrina Jacobs knows success in the classroom from her 10 years of highly effective teaching in the [Pendergast Elementary School District](#). She not only believes her job is to inspire students but to take her educational accomplishments to new heights by sharing [The 3 C's to Student Success](#) on the [Edutopia](#) website. Edutopia was founded by George Lucas of Star Wars fame with the mission of, “Improving the K-12 learning process through innovative, replicable, and evidence-based strategies that prepare students to thrive in their studies, careers, and adult lives.” The [George Lucas Educational Foundation](#) (GLEF) documents and disseminates the most exciting classrooms where innovations are taking place. By shining the spotlight on these inspiring teachers and students, they hope others will consider how their work can promote change in their own schools.

Catrina is from North Dakota where she received her undergraduate degree from North Dakota State University. This is her 10th year of teaching for the Pendergast Elementary School District. The first seven years were spent teaching physical education to kindergarten through eighth grade students. During that time she assisted with creating the district's Physical Education Curriculum while obtaining a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Phoenix. Eager for a new challenge, Catrina took a few reading classes and became certified to teach in the classroom. This will be her third year teaching 2nd Grade at [Westwind Elementary School](#). In her article she challenges teachers by saying, “Success doesn't happen by accident. It takes genuine, passionate care for each student in every interaction to shape their view and experience of learning and school. As teachers, it is up to us to make it interesting with our personality and style. It is also up to us as professionals to give students the skills and confidence to go forward -- to catapult. Because once they know you care, they will care more about what you have to say and what you teach them.”

Pendergast District Superintendent Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux praised Catrina's writing and the impact it has on all teachers. “Catrina models the best in teaching and helps students to reach their fullest potential. She clearly possesses the knowledge and skills to implement her belief about motivational teaching in such a way that her students love learning. Catrina is highly respected by all in the district who seek out her expertise to improve the mastery of their craft. We are so fortunate to have innovate teachers of this caliber teaching students in our district.”

Governing Board President Martín Quezada knows the value of Catrina's teaching and writing and how vital it is to have “High achieving schools and students that are impacted by excellent teachers. Education is the key to a bright future for our students and it is the teacher in the classroom who models success daily. As a governing board, we are proud when our teachers share their accomplishments through website such as Edutopia so everyone can benefit from their knowledge and experience.”

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