



## **Pendergast District Welcomes New Administrators**

*Outstanding candidates chosen for leadership positions for 2015-16 school year*

July 15, 2015(Phoenix, Arizona) – Pendergast School District serving over 10,000 students in the communities of Avondale, Glendale and Phoenix is proud to welcome new administrators to its schools and the District with many receiving internal promotions. These administrators will be responsible for implementing the school and District goals and the new strategic plan for the 2015-16 school year. The new administrative hires are as follows:

- **Amy Bonilla**, Principal, Amberlea School. Ms. Bonilla previously served Pendergast District as the Response to Intervention (RTI) Coordinator.
- **Stephanie Celis**, Director of Academic Programs and Assessments. Ms. Celis previously served Pendergast as the SIS Data Control Coordinator.
- **Michael Clark**, Assistant Principal, Copper King School. Mr. Clark is coming from the Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA) where he held the position of PEER Evaluator.
- **Ann-Jeanette (A.J.) Estrada**, Assistant Principal, Garden Lakes School. Ms. Estrada is coming from Littleton School District where she was the Dean of Students.
- **Jill Helland**, Principal, Garden Lakes School. Ms. Helland previously served Pendergast as Assistant Principal at Copper King School.
- **Joseph Jacobo**, Principal, Sonoran Sky School. Mr. Jacobo is coming from Pima Unified School District where he served as a K-6 Principal.
- **Gwendolyn Parker**, Director of Special Education. Ms. Parker is coming from Glendale Elementary School District where she held the position of Director for Student Services.
- **Laurie Swanson-Puddicombe**, Assistant Principal, Villa de Paz School. Ms. Swanson-Puddicombe is coming from Cartwright Elementary School District where she was an Instructional Support Specialist.
- **Shakira Simmons**, Principal, Villa de Paz School. Ms. Simmons previously served Pendergast in the position of Assistant Principal for Villa de Paz School.
- **Mary Tierney**, Assistant Principal, Canyon Breeze School. Ms. Tierney previously served Pendergast District as the iTeach Coordinator.
- **Lawrence Wallen**, Assistant Director for Student Assessments. Mr. Wallen is coming from George Gervin Preparatory Academy where he served as the Information Technology Coordinator.
- **Brian Winefsky**, Director of School Leadership. Mr. Winefsky previously served as Principal at Amberlea School.

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast Superintendent believes, “Leadership is critical in order to focus on student achievement at all levels of the organization and each of our new administrators brings strong skills, a positive attitude and a willingness to help Pendergast students, staff, families and the communities be the very best they can be. We welcome each of them and hope our communities will take time to meet them through our many connecting activities. Please check our website for our Open Houses, Curriculum Nights, Community Forums, Monthly Community Breakfasts and more at [www.pesd92.org](http://www.pesd92.org).