



Pendergast Elementary School District Rewards Staff Attendance with \$7,000 Giveaway

Thirty-nine employees had perfect attendance for the 2015-16 school year!

May 31, 2016 (Phoenix, Arizona) – Thirty-nine certified and classified employees from the Pendergast School District were rewarded for perfect attendance for the 2015-16 school year. All employees who were eligible were treated to a luau party sponsored by the District where fun abounded. The Pendergast Education Foundation sponsored the perfect attendance program in conjunction with the District. Each week in the employee newsletter, information was shared and schools and departments celebrated for making attendance a priority for students and staff.



One certified and one classified employee were selected randomly from the eligible participants at the celebration. Staff had the choice of an Apple Vacation of their choice valued at \$3,500 or a 3-day vacation in Rocky Point, Mexico and \$1,000 spending money. The winners were **Melissa Griesemer**, a first grade teacher from Westwind School who chose the Apple Vacation Package and **Ricardo Valdivia** from the Warehouse, the classified employee winner who chose the Rocky Point vacation and \$1,000. Both were chosen from a field of thirty-nine potential winners.

Bren Carpenter, a fourth grade teacher from Amberlea School was thrilled to be in the running for the prizes. Even though she did not win, she and other participants received a certificate and a coupon for a free lunch from Chartwell's Catering. Bren shares, "I think the program is good for morale and it is easy for me because I signed a contract to work and I go to work because my kids depend on me. I love the students, the school, the administrators, my co-workers and the District."



Board members Susan Serin and State Senator Martin Quezada praised the staff for their commitment and shared, "They are the backbone of the district. We feel very fortunate to have such dedicated staff members who deserve recognition for all they do for the students, families and the communities we serve. This year it was vacations and next year it will once again be a car that is given away."

Executive Director of Human Resources Patty Tussey praised the event and the recognition by saying, "It not only recognizes employees for their commitment to be here everyday for our students, but I believe it adds to our community feel and helps to retain employees who seek out our district because of its fine reputation." For further information, contact Pendergast District at 623-772-2200.