



## **Pendergast District Chief HR Officer Receives AASBO Best Practices Award**

*Patti Tussey honored for her unique strategies and solutions to teacher shortage in Arizona*



*April 25, 2017 - Phoenix, Arizona* –With a severe teacher shortage in the education arena in Arizona, Patti Tussey was able to use her positive attitude, creative thinking and business acumen to help [Pendergast District](#) be competitive with strategies put into place that have helped the district excel. Patti reached out to the Philippines and Puerto Rico to establish relationships and due to her foresight and diligence; Pendergast was able to hire 48 teachers from these countries who possessed outstanding skills and credentials to serve 10,000+ students on twelve campuses.

According to Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, PESD Superintendent, “This partnership enabled the district to put outstanding teachers in classrooms, provide a cultural exchange program where the teachers, schools and students benefitted and helped to solve the shortage problem in the district. Patti has been a leader in her district, community and state, going beyond in demonstrating her leadership in the areas of climate and culture, supporting district goals and as an active and supportive member of her professional association. We are grateful to the [Arizona Association of School Business Officials](#) for recognizing Patti and PESD.”