



Pendergast Leaders Chosen for Valle del Sol’s Esteemed Hispanic Leadership Institute

Opportunity will benefit students, staff, families and the communities of PESD

Phoenix Az. – September 29, 2016 – Dora Barrio, Chief Academic Officer and Patti Tussey, Chief Human Resources Officer of the [Pendergast District](#) have been selected to attend the [Hispanic Leadership Institute \(HLI\) West Valley](#). HLI is an intensive 18-week program focusing on leadership, cultural identity, team building and service to the community.

HLI was founded in 1986 as a partnership between Valle del Sol, Valley of the Sun United Way and South Mountain Community College. In 1994, Valle del Sol and Arizona State University partnered to strengthen and expand the Institute. In 2007, ASU’s College of Public Programs and Valle del Sol joined their efforts to ensure that Hispanic leaders are ready to take their places front and center in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors now and in the years to come.

Valle del Sol’s Hispanic Leadership Institute enhances participants’ understanding of the role culture plays in a variety of circumstances, with specific attention to the enduring influence of Latinos in Arizona. The curriculum builds from participants’ experiences, emphasizing personal and professional development with a practical orientation. Sessions focus on ethics, cultural and personal identity, community issues, public and media relations skills, board/commission service, and meetings and protocol among other topics.

For over twenty-five years, Valle del Sol’s Hispanic Leadership Institute (HLI) has promoted the individual development of Hispanics for increased participation in leadership roles and serves as a premier education and networking resource for expertise and advocacy on leadership issues affecting Latino communities.

Barrio and Tussey share their enthusiasm about being selected for this longstanding, valuable leadership program. “The HLI West Valley is another opportunity for us to deepen our roots, connect with others in our community and share the power of collaboration. Pendergast District will benefit through our community connections that will create mutually beneficial relationships that will showcase our 10,000+ students and 12 school campuses, and the outstanding educational opportunities they offer.”

Valle del Sol’s Hispanic Leadership Institute was established and designed to educate and assist individuals in developing and expanding their leadership skills to take an active role in the community.