



Quezada and Serin Elected to PESD Board Leadership Positions *Award-winning board continues the tradition of excellence*

January 17, 2018 - Phoenix, Arizona – Elections for governing board officers are held during the first board meeting of the New Year. On January 16, 2018, the Pendergast governing board voted Senator Martin Quezada and Susan Serin as **Pendergast District** president and vice-president respectively. Jose Arenas was thanked for his service as board president for the past two years. Quezada, an attorney, currently serves as a state senator representing Legislative District #29 in Maryvale and Glendale, and has served as a PESD board member since 2011. Serin has served as a board member in PESD for the past 30 years and works for Farmer’s Insurance Company. Both are active as community volunteers and educational advocates.

The PESD board recently received The Arizona School Boards Association’s prestigious Lou Ella Kleinz Excellence in Governance Award in December 2017. ASBA’s highest honor, this award is presented to a governing board demonstrating the most outstanding education leadership for the year.

Additionally, at the meeting, the board welcomed its newest member, Alan Gaugert, who was appointed to the board to assume the vacancy created when Ruben Gutierrez moved out of the district.

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast superintendent, shared her pride regarding the district’s accomplishments through the board’s leadership. “In a recent New York Times’ article titled, *How Effective is Your School District? A New Measure Shows Where Students Learn the Most*, Stanford researchers found data indicates that students in wealthy districts do not show as much growth as students in poorer districts. Pendergast students demonstrate 6 years of growth from 3rd grade to 8th grade, meaning Pendergast students demonstrate 6 years of growth in only 5 years. When comparing our 6 years of growth in 5 years time, Pendergast students out-grow most all other districts in the West Valley. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of our board and their strong commitment to high student achievement. Congratulations to our board and our hard-working staff!”