



## **Million Dollar Teacher Project Celebrates Pendergast Teachers**

March 5, 2018 – Phoenix, Az. - Often teachers are the unsung heroes in the education world but Lloyd Hopkins, Executive Director of the Million Dollar Teacher program, seeks to change that status. Through his Take a Teacher to Lunch Project, local businesses join forces with schools to celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding educators with a free lunch and prizes. The Million Dollar Teacher Project’s goal is to bring this event to every school district in the state of Arizona, by the end of 2019.

On Wednesday, March 7, 2018, teachers from all twelve schools in the Pendergast District will be honored with a celebration of their outstanding contributions to their schools and their dedication to students. The following teachers have been selected by their principals to participate in the event:

Amberlea School - Patrick Epstein, Realyn Enriquez and Laura Miller selected by Principal Marisol Silva  
Canyon Breeze School - Krysta Kornack, Valerie Locke and Erica Rodriguez selected by Principal Lori Pizzo  
Copper King School - Donna Bateman, Laura Mitteness and Joseph Covey selected by Principal Janine Ambrose  
Desert Horizon School - Rocio Martinez, Kiersten Bloom and Racquel Melosantos selected by Principal Debby Cruz  
Desert Mirage School - Katrin Taylor, Mark Hummel and Deborah Geiger selected by Principal Matt Williams  
Garden Lakes School - Monica Michels, Natalie Shuler and Michael Bockmiller selected by Principal Jill Helland  
Pendergast School - Cathy Moreno, Debbie Kohn, and Robin Overbey selected by Principal Michael Woolsey  
Rio Vista School - Amanda Sparks, Lisa Sylva and Sandra Bieske selected by Principal Siobhan McCarthy  
Sunset Ridge School - Jackie Lake, Tomorra Howard and Abigail Flister selected by Principal Brian Winefsky  
Sonoran Sky School - Kim Ponce, Rachel Laue and Meggan Mayse selected by Principal Joseph Jacobo  
Villa de Paz School - Sasha Smith, Andrea Carnero Lewis and Christiane Walters selected by Principal Belinda Quezada  
Westwind School - Alyssa Heath, Diane Cea and Zulema Carter selected by Principal Rod Henkel

According to the Executive Director and Founder of the [Million Dollar Teacher Project](#), Lloyd Hopkins, “I do this because I believe the teaching profession is the cornerstone of society and we need to do everything we can to preserve and elevate it!”

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux Pendergast Superintendent shares, “We are fortunate to have people in our community who believe in our teachers and wish to celebrate the impact they have on a daily basis in our schools and communities. Thanks to Lloyd for his passion towards education and Mountain Park Health Centers, and Hayden Wolven from Panera Bread, the sponsors of the event.”