



Pendergast District Partners with the Corning Foundation for \$20K Grant

Students in all 12 schools will benefit from the funds and knowledge gained



**CORNING
FOUNDATION**

April 30, 2019 – Phoenix, Arizona – The Pendergast Elementary School District was awarded a \$20K grant from Corning Incorporated Foundation earlier this month. The Corning Incorporated Foundation is a charitable

contributions organization established by Corning Incorporated in 1952. Through leadership and collaboration, the Foundation strives to foster vibrant, enriching, and supportive Corning communities. The Foundation focuses on education, human services, culture, and volunteerism in Corning business locations. This grant supports equipment and materials for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) makerspace and instructional units.

Pendergast District submitted the grant, which will be used to support all of the 12 schools in high quality project-based-learning. This will especially enhance the makerspace labs and support of teaching the new Arizona Science Standards, adopted earlier this year. The grant will allow students to work throughout the entire year with materials that support science concepts, in all grades, K-8. Examples of learning kits funded by the one-year grant include: light energy kits, recycling base kits, sound study kits, water testing kits and building kits. The grant also supports hands-on learning technology devices such as 3D printers, filament and Raspberry Pi computer building kits.

Cindy S. Wiste, Assistant Director of STEAM for the district stated, “We appreciate the Corning grant so much. It affords students at all grade levels the opportunity to participate in hands-on STEAM activities. Many times, grants will only focus on middle school grades. Corning is different. This grant will allow us to work with students on building requisite skills, with important, real-time activities, from the time they enter the district in Kindergarten. The grant even includes community engagement support. This allows students to engage with the community, based on an identified need, and address that need with Science, Technology, Engineering or Math. As an example, students at Villa de Paz School recently built a computer game that can be played by both sighted and blind gamers. These funds will help with such vital projects.”

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast Superintendent echoed these sentiments, “It is so rewarding to see when local businesses invest in their schools and communities. These students are the workforce of tomorrow and will compete globally using the skills and talents they have in these types of programs, with these useful materials. We are deeply indebted to Corning for believing in our students.

For further information about STEAM programs in PESD contact Cindy S. Wiste at cwiste@pesd92.org or 623-772-2296.”