



## **Pendergast District Teacher Selected as Arizona Council for Exceptional Children Teacher of the Year**

*Dedication, persistence and relationships define her teaching and contributions*



*January 23, 2020 - Glendale, Arizona* – The Arizona Council for Exceptional Children is bestowing the honor of the Samuel A. Kirk Teacher of the Year Award to Shaylyn Savage, Special Education Teacher at Sunset Ridge Elementary School in Glendale. This award is for a teacher who has contributed significantly to the education of individuals with disabilities through direct student contact in instruction. The award honors Dr. Samuel A. Kirk who is internationally recognized for his accomplishments in the field of special education. Shaylyn was nominated by Gwen

Parker, the Director of Exceptional Student Services for the Pendergast District.

According to Parker, “Shaylyn is a mentor and inspiration to our entire staff as she has conquered obstacles and adversity that most people would never attempt to overcome. Shaylyn is visually-impaired and recognizes far better than most, the major obstacles students may be challenged with in accessing the curriculum. She has grown into an extraordinary educator who will do anything for the students she serves.

Supporting the nomination is Shaylyn’s principal, Brian Winefsky from Sunset Ridge Elementary School. “Ms. Savage is a passionate and dedicated teacher who consistently goes above and beyond to do her very best in everything she does. Her kindness, persistence, passion, and warm personality make Ms. Savage a perfect educator and mentor for her students. She is professional, knowledgeable, demonstrates outstanding teacher leadership, and is an inspiration to all she encounters. As a school administrator for 15 years, I can easily say that Shaylyn Savage is the best exceptional services teacher I have had the opportunity to work with. Shaylyn has a mindset that anyone can overcome adversity in their life, and has the dedication, persistence, and relationships with her students to help them see and realize that vision.”

The Pendergast Elementary School District is extremely proud of Ms. Savage and all she has done to support the mission of the district of *Empowering Excellence and Success*.