



The LEGO Foundation



Four Pendergast District Schools Receive National Grant from First Book

Funds will be used for internet connectivity, technology and Lego STEAM kits

August 27, 2020 – Phoenix, Arizona - A recent survey found that 40% of children do not have reliable internet access and almost 40% are without access to functioning devices. The closure of schools in March in Arizona due to COVID-19, exacerbated an existing crisis in education for children with limited resources, millions of whom do not have access to enable virtual learning.

Today, to help address the widening digital divide, education and technology companies came together to announce a first of its kind grant for 45 school districts across the country: [Creating Learning Connections](#) (CLC) grant. The grant aims to provide a holistic learning experience to students in the U.S., most notably those impacted by COVID-19. This includes providing families with laptops, internet connectivity, and LEGO Education learning solutions, which teach students Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) concepts with LEGO bricks.

As a part of this initiative, we are excited to share that four [Pendergast District](#) Schools: Canyon Breeze and Rio Vista Schools in Avondale, Desert Horizon School in Phoenix and Sonoran Sky School in Glendale have been selected to receive: 350 fully configured Chromebooks, 69 LEGO Education Early Simple Machine Sets for grades K-2, 162 LEGO Education Simple Machine Sets for grades 3-5, 69 LEGO Education Simple & Powered Machines for grades 4-8 and a stipend to help subsidize the cost of internet for families in the program.

According to Dr. Jennifer Cruz, Chief Academic Officer of the Pendergast District and author of the grant, “This award gives us the opportunity to bring high quality learning materials to our students that we otherwise couldn't afford. In Pendergast, we intentionally work to provide students with STEAM learning opportunities that will prepare our students for a productive future. The partnership with LEGO, Intel, and First Book meshes perfectly with our long term goals for student success. We asked our site leaders who was interested in this opportunity, and a number of sites responded. We selected these 4 sites because of site leader interest, their clearly stated desire for additional unique programming, and a supportive community. We can't wait to see how our amazing teachers facilitate this programming with our students! Pendergast District is committed to high student achievement through empowering excellence and success for all!”