



Pendergast District Teacher Selected as Top Ten Finalist for Teacher of the Year

Shaylyn Savage chosen by the Arizona Education Foundation for excellence in teaching



August 5, 2020 - Phoenix, Arizona – Shaylyn Savage, Pendergast District Special Education Teacher at Sunset Ridge School in Glendale was chosen as a top ten finalist in the competition for the Arizona Teacher of the Year. Savage, in her ninth year of teaching special education resource to middle school students, describes her philosophy of teaching by saying, “I am a passionate educator who believes all students can achieve success when given the correct tools and support. I hold students to high expectations and build their confidence so that they can be em-

powered to advocate for themselves and go after their dreams.”

The Arizona Education Foundation shares, “All ten of these extraordinary educators will be invited to interview with our selection panel. From those interviews, five will be named 2021 AEF Arizona Ambassadors for Excellence. The remaining five will be named semi-finalists and, while no longer in the running for the award, they will be recognized as part of the 2021 Top 10 at various events throughout the year. Find out who the next Arizona Teacher of the Year will be by watching the online stream of the awards show on October 23 at 6:00 pm.

Shaylyn’s principal, Brian Winefsky, is fully supportive of Shaylyn and shares his thoughts on her award, “Ms. Savage is a passionate and dedicated teacher who consistently goes above and beyond to do her best in everything she undertakes. Her kindness, persistence, passion as well as her warmth and personality make her the perfect educator and mentor for her students. The fact that Savage is blind does not overshadow the reasons why she is so deserving of this award. I can say she is the best exceptional services teacher I have had the opportunity to work with in my 16 years as a school administrator.”

Pendergast Superintendent, Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux shares her pride in Shaylyn, “This is an amazing honor for Shaylyn and for the Pendergast District and shows the quality of teachers on our staff. Shaylyn worked extremely hard to show her determination and dedication to her students, staff member, families and the community she serves. We wish her the best of luck as she enters the next phase of the competition. We believe in Shaylyn!”