



Pendergast District Teachers Honored with School Connect Hero Awards

Daly and Salado are praised for their commitment to education and their students

Phoenix, Arizona (April 29, 2021) – [Pendergast District](#) is beaming with pride at the latest awards bestowed on the district. [Jodi Daly](#), 5th grade teacher at [Desert Horizon School](#) in Phoenix was chosen as the School Connect’s Hero Maker Award in a virtual ceremony on April 22, 2021. [Casey Salado](#), first grade teacher at Desert Mirage School in Glendale, was one of two finalists for the award. The ninety minute broadcast is featured [here](#) as well as their nomination videos that are linked.

According to Tracey Beale, Executive Director of School Connect, “School Connect is a national organization based in Phoenix that researches and develops the best practices to build a supportive, collaborative community around schools. We utilize the principles of “Asset Based Community Development” to focus on what various partners have to offer, and how to use the best assets of the community to build sustainable, mutually beneficial relationships. This is the first year that School Connect has virtually honored Champions of Education Who Have the Courage to Make A Difference. These courageous educators have built trust, modeled resilience, and cultivated leadership in their schools and districts and the fact that there were ninety nominations for the 5 awards speaks to the high quality of leadership in our schools and districts today that deserved to be recognized for their accomplishments, especially in this year of great challenge.”

Dr. Jennifer Cruz, Acting Superintendent of Pendergast District shares, “Pendergast District has deep roots of support and involvement with School Connect through Love Our Schools Days, community engagement events and more. We are grateful to School Connect for honoring these heroes. They inspire all of us daily with their strong commitment to making education fun and meaningful for their students and connecting with families and the communities they serve. We are so proud of them.”