



Pendergast District School Receives a \$20,000 Corning Foundation STEAM Grant

Corning invests in students and teachers at Desert Mirage to help them succeed in STEAM

July 28, 2020 – Glendale, Arizona – [Desert Mirage Elementary School](#) in the [Pendergast Elementary District](#) was awarded a \$20K grant from [Corning Incorporated Foundation](#) to increase Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) programs and the professional development to accompany them. The District received a \$20K grant last year however, this is the first year for Desert Mirage School.

The Corning Incorporated Foundation is a charitable 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 throughout the world including Glendale, Arizona.

This grant funding will be utilized to train Desert Mirage (DM) educators in acquiring best teaching practices that are derived from engaging in high quality STEAM project-based learning (PBL) professional development to effectively increase Mathematics and English/Language Arts achievement for all DM students in the Glendale, Arizona campus. Teacher Professional Development training will encompass: Thematic, rigorous, project-based learning formats; accelerated and differentiated STEAM instruction; collaborative STEAM PBL development; links between curriculum, assessment, and professional learning decisions; deeper content knowledge and sustained program development through a train-the-trainer model. STEAM academy teachers will engage in intensive Professional Development modules at regular intervals throughout the school year in order to bring best practices to STEAM education for over 1,350 students in grades K-8.

Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux, Pendergast Superintendent shares her excitement about the grant, “Corning continues to be a wonderfully supportive partner of PESD. With this grant, they are helping to train the workforce of the future and helping us realize the skills needed as our students continue their education. Students in our Academies have numerous opportunities to interact with STEAM career professionals, participate in field trips, job-shadowing, and take part in local science fair projects, robotics competitions, and architectural design fairs. All academy instruction is based within a paradigm that encourages student awareness, responsiveness, volunteerism, and leadership and we can already see the results of their amazing efforts. We are grateful to Corning for believing in us.”

For additional information about the Desert Mirage STEAM Academy programs, contact Matt Williams, principal, at mwilliams@pesd92.org or by phone at 623-772-2550.
