



Pendergast Teachers Receive Classroom Grants and Accolades

Funds will be used to enhance student achievement and engagement

November 18, 2020 – (Phoenix, Arizona) – [Pendergast District](#) teachers go above and beyond to help their students, and this includes writing grants to fund classroom extras and motivating students in creative ways to do and be their best. These exceptional educators know their students will be the beneficiaries of their hard work and perseverance and they are proud to represent the teaching profession, their schools, and Pendergast District.

Jodi Daly, 5th grade teacher at Desert Horizon School in Phoenix, wrote and received a \$2,500 [Desert Financial](#) Fiesta Bowl Charities Wishes for Teachers grant. She will use the funds to purchase materials for a Makerspace in her classroom. Makerspaces are areas where students come to explore, build, create, and tinker in Math and Science. Students are responsible for directing their own actions and learning experiences. Jodi is thrilled to receive the grant and she can't wait to celebrate with her students.

Jamie Adkins, Special Education teacher at Copper King School in Phoenix, wrote and received a grant from the AZED News sponsored by Davidson/Belluso. Atkins, who teaches students in the fifth-to-eighth-grade self-contained special education program, said she's planning on using the \$200 grant to purchase a year-long subscription to News 2 You curriculum to help her students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. "What is great about this program is that they take current events and adapt them to all learners, so it allows students to stay up-to-date on information all while doing so on their level," Atkins said.

Garden Lakes Elementary School in Avondale's amazing 1st grade teacher, Candy McOwen, was the recipient of the [Suntec](#) Teacher Award! The crew from Suntec surprised her with an entire table of prizes, including a huge class ABC carpet, two types of headphones and a variety of math manipulatives for her students to enjoy and to enhance their learning!

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Sydney Kostan, 7-8th grade Special Education teacher at Westwind School in Phoenix, won a \$500 grant for her classroom from the Arizona Cardinals [Touchdown for Teachers](#) program!

Shaylyn Savage, Special Education Teacher at Sunset Ridge School in Glendale and Tim Ramsey, 7th grade Writing Teacher at Westwind School in Phoenix, were featured as [AZ Central's](#) Amazing Teachers of the Month program for October and November respectively. They were featured online and in print and are entered into a drawing to win cash prizes.

Pendergast Superintendent Dr. Lily Matos DeBlieux shares her pride for the teachers and praises their dedication and diligence, “We are so fortunate to have outstanding educators who demonstrate their commitment to a premier education for their students and willingly go the extra mile. They are true mentors and role models.”