



MCESA

Maricopa County Education Service Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Laurie King, Director of Communication and Learning Systems

602-372-3704

laurie.king@mcesa.maricopa.gov

Arizona's Eight Exemplary Principals Set to Mentor Aspiring School Leaders

Eight standout Arizona school principals have been recognized as 2017 Rodel Exemplary Principals. This newest group of Exemplary Principals will join a growing network of similarly qualified school leaders to mentor Aspiring Principals over a two-year period.

"These school leaders are shining examples of the professionalism and skill that we need to push education in Arizona to the next level," said Maricopa County School Superintendent Steve Watson. "And as Rodel Exemplary Principals, they will help to develop the next generation of Arizona's school leaders."

Rodel Exemplary Principal eligibility is based on selection criteria including serving a minimum of two years as principal at a school with currently 50 percent or more of students eligible for free or reduced-price free lunch, a documented history of student achievement growth, a positive school culture, and an active engagement of parents and community. The 12 semifinalists stood out from the 45 principals eligible for the Rodel Exemplary Principal program based on their exceptional leadership work and strong recommendations from their district superintendents.

The 2017 Rodel Exemplary Principals are:

- **Wayne Deffenbaugh**, principal of Desert Thunder Elementary School, Goodyear
- **Amalia Garcia**, principal of Luke Elementary School, Glendale
- **Kristi Langley-Wells**, principal of Sunset Elementary School, Phoenix
- **Hilary O'Brien**, principal of Camelview Elementary School, Phoenix
- **Denis Parcels**, principal of William C. Jack School, Glendale
- **Jan Stevens**, principal of Indian Bend Elementary School, Phoenix
- **Tim Thomas**, principal Rogers Ranch School, Laveen
- **Tonja Yalung**, principal of Kyrene de los Ninos Elementary, Tempe

The Rodel Foundation of Arizona began the Rodel Exemplary Principal program in 2008. Since that time, 64 outstanding school leaders have been recognized. In the summer of 2016, Rodel chose MCESA to administer the program statewide.

For more information about the Rodel Exemplary Principal program and for information and media of the 2017 Rodel Exemplary Principals, visit <http://mcesa.info/exemplary-principals> or contact MCESA Director of Communication and Learning Systems Laurie King at laurie.king@mcesa.maricopa.gov or 602-689-0581.

Maricopa County Education Service Agency (MCESA), under the direction of Maricopa County Superintendent of Schools, is dedicated to ensuring that all school-age children in the county graduate college- and career-ready. MCESA builds alliance partnerships that provide leadership, services and programs in the areas of Educational Innovation, Economic Management and Executive Leadership.