



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

DATE OF MEETING: **October 8, 2019**

TITLE: **Recognition of 2019 District Legendary Teacher Award Recipient**

BACKGROUND:

On September 26, 2019, we celebrated Legendary Teacher Day, a day set aside to recognize and honor special teachers who make a difference in the lives of students. Exceptional teachers across our District were nominated by students, peers, parents and community members for this award, and we are pleased to share that the 2019 District Legendary Teacher Award Recipient is Ms. Devahi Balachandran, a math teacher who works with English Language Learners and refugee students at Amphitheater High School. Here is a passage from Ms. Balachandran's nomination:

“Dev devotes her entire self to the success of the English-Language Learner & Refugee student population at Amphitheater High School. She teaches an Academic Intervention class which requires intense creativity and quick, out-of-the-box thinking to meet the needs of all the students in her class.”

“... She developed a project for former students to create a ‘math dictionary’ in their own languages, which have been reprinted and distributed to all the math classes in the school and to new students just entering Amphi. This personal gift in a student's native language is the kind of personal touch that has endeared hundreds of students to Dev over the years.

“... She stays after school and works during lunch to work with her students. She collaborates with colleagues to visit the homes of her students on the weekend to see how they are doing. ... She spends her summer attending conferences on Social-Emotional learning and even how to incorporate dance & rhythm into math classes to better meet the cultural needs of her students.

“Dev is truly Legendary for the work she does with our English Language & Refugee community. Her passion, dedication, and creativity create incredible academic & personal growth in our students.”

We would like to thank Pima Federal Credit Union and the Pima County Superintendent's Office for supporting our 2019 Legendary Teacher. The credit union provided Ms. Balachandran with a generous gift at a press conference held Sept. 24, 2019 at the Pima County Superintendent's Office.

We are so proud and pleased to have Ms. Balachandran in the Amphi Family, and we thank her for her extraordinary service to our students.

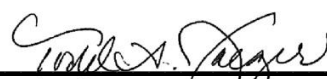
RECOMMENDATION:

This is presented for the Board's information and recognition.

INITIATED BY:


Michelle Valenzuela, Communications Director

Date: September 30, 2019


Todd A. Jaeger, J.D., Superintendent
