



## ARIZONA EL TEACHER OF THE YEAR



### MARIA LEE PILAR

Kindergarten  
ELD Teacher  
Laveen Elementary  
School District

"Ms. Pilar is a highly effective SEI kindergarten teacher at Maurice C. Cash Elementary School. Each year, she is charged with teaching students who have limited English speaking skills and are often of lower socioeconomic status. Yet, Ms. Pilar doesn't hesitate to set high expectations for learning in her classroom. This is evidenced on day one; when she hits the ground running and by October her EL kindergartners are reading, writing and engaged in model conversations at the same rate as their English speaking peers. We are incredibly fortunate that Ms. Pilar chooses the Laveen Elementary School District and MC Cash to call her home. Her outstanding commitment is validated by the extent of her student achievement scores. For example, last school year, Ms. Pilar's EL students demonstrated outstanding success on last year's NWEA MAP growth tests. On average, her students met 123% of projected growth in reading and 111% in math, with the average growth score at 100%. In addition, she consistently has students that demonstrate 90% conditional growth in both reading and math! Her students' success is also evidenced in her AZELLA reclassification percentiles. Her exceptional teaching talent does not go unnoticed by her peers, as she is a master level teacher who graciously shares her expertise with her grade level and school team, as well as other district teachers. We often seek Ms. Pilar out for teaching demonstrations that exhibit high levels of instructional expertise. We cannot begin to say enough about how Ms. Pilar sets her EL students up for a lifetime of success."

Nicole Goodwin, Principal  
Laveen Elementary School District