



News Release
For Immediate Release

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LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 25 RECOGNIZES TEACHERS IN ARIZONA STEM ACCELERATION PROJECT FELLOWSHIP

BUCKEYE (September 19, 2023) – Liberty Elementary School District No. 25 is pleased to announce its recognition of five science teachers who have completed year one of the Arizona STEM Acceleration Project (ASAP).

ASAP Fellows:

Josh Kolopan, Westar Elementary School
Shawna Matteson, Westar Elementary School
Sue Matteson, Freedom Elementary School
Christi Mendoza, Liberty Elementary School
Janelle Moran, Westar Elementary School

“We are so proud to have such talented teachers across the district,” said Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services Natasha Camp. “Their participation in this fellowship speaks volumes to their commitment to STEM education and to their students.”



From left to right: Josh Kolopan, Sue Matteson, Christi Mendoza, Shawna Matteson, Janelle Moran and Natasha Camp

Supported by Arizona State University's [Center for Science and the Imagination](#) and [Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College](#), ASAP is a grassroots effort to enhance and accelerate science,

technology, engineering and math (STEM) activities in schools across Arizona. This project connects educators with professional development organizations and funding partners to build a more collaborative, more imaginative foundation for developing and delivering STEM resources and training opportunities to educators statewide.

“At Liberty, we pride ourselves on having top talent, and these science teachers emulate that. Their ambition and dedication to the teaching profession shine through their classrooms. We are lucky to have them as part of our LESD25 team,” said Interim Superintendent Dr. Cort Monroe.

ASAP provides vital funding and guidance to schools and professional development organizations, increasing their ability to foster engagement, update curricula, and acquire materials needed to improve STEM education for Arizona's students.

ASAP STEM Fellows receive the following benefits:

- **STEM Supplies:** Fellows receive a \$2,000 stipend to purchase STEM supplies for their projects.
- **Funding:** A \$4,500 stipend is given to all ASAP Fellows.
- **Professional Development Opportunities:** Fellows have access to a broad range of STEM professional development opportunities throughout Arizona.

About LESD25

Founded in 1887, the Liberty Elementary School District No. 25 spans 285 square miles including rural and suburban settings. It has grown from a historic one-room schoolhouse, to seven kindergarten through eighth grade schools between Buckeye and Goodyear, educating more than 4,500 students. Each school is tailored to serve students based on their interests through unique signature programs. LESD25 prepares all students for success in high school and beyond with engaging and challenging learning environments. Through individual accomplishment, personal leadership, and contribution to their community, children flourish. Discover more at liberty25.org.

Cultivating curious, confident, problem solvers prepared for tomorrow.

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