

Lisa Sandomir

Maurice C. Cash Elementary School

2015 Rodel Exemplary Principal

Bragging rights

“ The students and staff of M.C. Cash are my greatest source of pride. Everyone sees each day as a new beginning, with new opportunities to learn, to interact with others, and to grow. As a Kids at Hope school, our staff works tirelessly to ensure that all our students know that they are special, unique, and that there is always an adult on campus who cares about them. In turn, the students pledge to always give us their personal best.

A tip for new principals

“ A tip I would give new principals is to be visible. You cannot be an effective principal from your office. Being visible on the campus, in the cafeteria, on the playground and in the classrooms will allow you to build relationships with students, parents, and teachers as well as send the message that you are more than just a manager handling the day-to-day issues, but an instructional leader who is there to be an agent of change.

Learning from a mentor

“ One of the lessons I learned from a mentor was to cultivate and value relationships. Creating and nurturing a culture of communication, collaboration and cooperation enhances the learning community by keeping students, parents, and teachers focused and motivated. When students and parents know their teachers truly care about them, and all staff members know that their administrators value and appreciate them, the possibilities for success are endless.

Collaborating with the community

“ Building a collaborative relationship with our community has benefited our staff and students in several ways. Our students and teachers feel supported and cared about. It's this support that keeps our students and teachers motivated and encouraged to keep working as hard as they do. The appreciation that our parents and community members show reinforces that what they all do makes it worth it.



Lisa Sandomir

Maurice C. Cash Elementary School
Laveen Elementary District

950 students in grades K-8

Experience: 22 years in education including 11 years as a classroom teacher, 2 years as an assistant principal, and 9 years as an elementary principal

Degrees: B.A. in Secondary Education from Arizona State University; M.A. in Secondary Education and Administrative Certification from Northern Arizona University

Rodel, in partnership with Social Venture Partners Arizona, developed the Rodel Exemplary Principal Initiative to recognize outstanding school principals and populate a pipeline of highly skilled school leaders for Arizona's most challenging schools.

The Rodel Exemplary Principals are selected for their demonstrated ability to lead high-need schools to success by inspiring their staffs to develop a campus that is high achieving, safe, orderly and welcoming.

Each cohort of Exemplary Principals provides professional development, field experience and mentorship to a class of Rodel Aspiring Principals. After learning from the best, Rodel Aspiring Principals are better prepared to lead their own high-need schools.