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San Tan Charter School Names New Principal at Power Campus

Brandon Trencher Looks to Build on the School's Strengths, While Setting a New Standard in East Valley Education

GILBERT, Arizona—Brandon Trencher has just been named as the new principal at San Tan Charter School in Gilbert.

As Kristofer Sippel, CEO and Superintendent of Schools noted, Trencher has an impressive ability to take school programs to a higher level of achievement.

Starting in education as a teacher in the Teach for America program, Trencher's first challenge was to bridge the achievement gap that exists for high school students living on the Navajo Reservation. During his first job teaching, Sippel said, all of Trencher's students passed the New Mexico high-stakes writing test.

After completing the two-year program, Trencher was named a Fellow with the American Society of Newspaper Editors for high school journalism and studied at the University of California at Berkeley before moving home and starting the first online high school newspaper in Washington State. In his new school students earned national recognition for newspaper writing and he wrote grants for the school for sustainability education.

Trencher applied for and was accepted into a graduate program for sustainability education in Arizona and founded a non-profit organization. With his graduate school cohort, Trencher founded the professional research journal for Sustainability Education (JSE) and during this time was able to help secure his family's legacy in sustainable tree farming in Washington State with his non-profit organization before returning back to the Southwest to work in schools.

In his return to teaching, Trencher earned a Teacher of the Year award in Apache County for his work in community engagement. He did this while serving as the school's variety

