

Laura Denué Among 15 Finalists Vying for Six \$100,000 Educational Grants from Farmers Insurance

Las Vegas, Nevada (September 9, 2015) – Farmers InsuranceSM announced today that Laura Denué of Desert Pines High School in Las Vegas has been named a finalist as part of the company's Thank America's Teachers Dream Big Teacher Challenge, awarding teachers for their ideas to help create a lasting and positive impact on their classrooms, schools, and communities.

Local Farmers agent Joe Haas surprised Denué with a visit to her school to share the news about being one of only 15 finalists in the running for one of six \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grants from Farmers.

"I am so excited to have had the honor of surprising Laura Denué with the news that she is one step closer to winning a \$100,000 grant through Thank America's Teachers," said Haas. "I invite the Las Vegas community, the state of Nevada, and the entire nation to vote to help make Laura's proposal a reality."

Each teacher's proposal went through a competitive review process, and Denué's proposal about creating a state-of-the-art kitchen and restaurant at Desert Pines High School was selected to move on to the voting phase of the Dream Big Teacher Challenge.

As part of Clark County School District's Turnaround Zone for chronically under-performing schools, Desert Pines High School is in desperate need of a program that can help its at-risk students find a passion and educational direction. If Denué were to win the \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grant, she will use the money to convert a classroom into a state-of-the-art kitchen and restaurant for students to learn food preparation skills and how to successfully operate a restaurant that will be open to all members of the surrounding community.

Beginning October 1, the finalists' proposals will be available for public voting at www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com. Everyone can vote for any of the 15 teacher proposals, but a person can only vote once for the same teacher proposal per day. Up to six \$100,000 educational grants will then be announced in December to the two proposals with the highest vote count per three geographical zones which include the Western Zone, Central Zone, and Eastern Zone.

In addition to voting, the public can visit www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com at any time to share their thanks for teachers who made a difference in their lives, and learn more about the program.

Launched at the 2015 Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, California, Thank America's Teachers features an actual yellow school bus that is traveling coast-to-coast delivering opportunities to say thank you to teachers who give their time, talent and knowledge to ensure that our nation's children become smarter and better prepared for the future.

Through Thank America's Teachers, Farmers will give away more than \$1,000,000 to educators in 2015 and the public will help determine who receives the grants at www.ThankAmericasTeachers.com. Farmers will award 180 grants valued at \$2,500 throughout the year, in addition to the six \$100,000 Dream Big Teacher Challenge grants.

About Farmers Insurance

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