

# Beth Lehr

## Pima JTED – District 2



I am an Arizona native and have lived in Sahuarita with my family for the past 16 years. Both of our children have attended school in Sahuarita and are currently a high school junior and an 8th grader. I served as an educator for 22 years; as a teacher for 14 years, and as an assistant principal at Sahuarita High School (SHS) for 8 years. Our daughter is in her 2nd year as a Biotech student at SHS, and our son plans on taking advantage of the CTE programs by taking Computer Science courses.

I am running for the Pima JTED School Board because I believe that students should have every opportunity available to them. JTED should continue to work with member districts to build supports for students where the students are located, as opposed to students needing to travel for support. Member districts have wonderful programs available on their campuses, but there are still missed opportunities within these communities. I would advocate for the board to work with the directors of the member districts to continue to build internship opportunities for students within their communities, while attempting to minimize barriers to accessing quality programs. For example, transportation should not be a reason that a student cannot access a program. In addition, I would work with the board and member districts to ensure that programs available within member districts aren't excessively duplicated by JTED campuses.

In my time at SHS I was able to see the real impact that JTED and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses had on our students, as well as the challenges faced by students in a rural setting. Students who were active in JTED and CTE classes were able to leave high school with skills that enabled them to enter the workforce in careers that they were interested in pursuing. However, most of the students in our area found that attending courses on the JTED campuses was not feasible due to the timing of the courses and the distance that they needed to travel. Most students relied on the programs that were housed at their school (satellite campuses), which is why there should be a focus on creating opportunities within the member districts.

With the ever increasing cost of traditional 4-year university it is more important now than ever to make sure that students have options. Bringing more community connections to the programs is imperative to the post-graduation success of students, and building opportunities for businesses to partner with the satellite schools as well as the JTED campuses will help protect and strengthen the local economies.