



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL'S LUIS JAVIER PENTÓN HERRERA NAMED KAPPA DELTA PI TEACHER OF HONOR**

(INDIANAPOLIS)—Luis Javier Pentón Herrera, an ESOL teacher at Laurel High School in Laurel, MD is the latest recipient of the Teacher of Honor Award from Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education. Herrera joins a select group of educators who have been recognized with this honor.

Pentón Herrera also is an adjunct professor in Spanish with both Howard Community College and an adjunct professor of Spanish and TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) with the Ana G. Méndez University System. Prior to that, he spent time in the United States Marine Corps (June 2006–June 2010) as well as worked in administrative roles for both the USMC and the Department of Defense.

Based on his academic background, it is clear that Pentón Herrera strongly values higher education and continued learning. Currently enrolled at Concordia University Chicago seeking his PhD in Leadership–Reading, Language, and Literacy, Herrera holds three masters degrees—two of which were completed with a 4.0/4.0 GPA.

Also evident is Pentón Herrera's dedication to moving the profession forward through the support he gives students he serves and through all of his work in TESOL, publishing, presenting, and ongoing education. "Mr. Pentón Herrera's execution, knowledge level, and professional awareness is up to par with that of seasoned professionals that have been in the field for years," writes Dr. Mirlis Reyes, Professor, Inter-American Defense College. "He is very active in academic conferences, and he is also showing his academic development through publications."

Mr. Pentón Herrera is a model educator and member of Kappa Delta Pi who is committed to providing an inclusive and quality education for all—a main tenant of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. "In my visits to [his] classes, he not only demonstrated a command of the language arts, but also showed cultural awareness and sensitivity to a diverse body of adult English language learners who learn in a sheltered environment," reported Dr. Reyes. "Professor Pentón Herrera's engagement with our teaching model, his awareness of the educational methodologies and strategies that satisfy our students' needs, and his commitment to our students and our University single him out as one of our best faculty resources."

Recently, TESOL International Association acknowledged Pentón Herrera as an emerging leader of the next generation in research, teaching, publishing, and leadership. "I feel confident that Mr. Pentón Herrera will continue making significant contributions to the field of education, particularly in the teaching of language arts. He truly is a promising young scholar," adds Dr. Reyes.

Kappa Delta Pi established the Teacher of Honor award in 2008. To earn this designation, an educator must have more than three years of classroom teaching experience; demonstrate a commitment to integrity and high standards in the classroom; and submit evidence of professional development, leadership, community service, and exceptional contributions to the education profession. The award recognizes teachers of all levels, from early childhood instructors to university faculty members. To learn more about the designation, go to <http://www.kdp.org/recognition/teacherofhonor.php>.

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### **About Kappa Delta Pi**

*Kappa Delta Pi, International Honor Society in Education, is a 501 (c) (3) organization established in 1911 to recognize and promote excellence in education, provide a reasoned voice for significant issues, and link learning communities of educators. Through its programs,*

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*services, and strategic partnerships, KDP supports the professional growth and teaching practices of educators throughout all phases and levels of their careers. The organization currently has more than 600 chapters and an active membership of nearly 40,000 worldwide.*