New Teacher Project was reviewed by a team from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) See Educational Services Division Report on pg 3

Ongoing Work on Strategic Plan
COE Managers continue their work on the development of the Strategic Plan with the expert facilitation of Nicole Young. Our Needs Assessment is nearly ready - we are set to begin crafting the logic models that will guide the future initiatives and services of the COE. We hope to have our Strategic Plan ready in May to begin implementation for July 1, 2019.

NGSS Science Across the County
Feb 7-8 - Every school district in Santa Cruz County was present at our Countywide Science Initiative meeting. Superintendents brought their science teams to discuss implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards. The two days were facilitated by the Bay Sci team.

Poetry Out Loud Competition
Feb 7 Audrey Sirota coordinated a wonderful Poetry Out Loud Event at Bookshop Santa Cruz. This national competition helps students master public speaking skills, build self confidence, and learn about literary history. The competition was in English but students also recited poems in Spanish, French, and Farsi. Congrats to winner Dannika Marcus who will go on to compete at the state level!

Countywide Plan to Prevent Suicide
Feb 1 -To address both the psychological and public health urgency of suicidal behaviors and thoughts, as well as the legal educational requirements brought by AB 2246, the Student Services Directors of Santa Cruz County School Districts, along with input from multiple stakeholders, created a comprehensive Suicide Prevention/ Intervention/ Postvention Plan. Additionally, approved by the Small School Superintendents, this plan has become the Santa Cruz County Schools Suicide Prevention Plan. The plan will next be operationalized by each school district as they create site and districts teams to use the outlined protocols.
KSQD Radio Launches
Feb 15 - KSQD 90.7 FM had a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the COE Annex. The radio station, which is housed at 399 Encinal will offer students opportunities to learn about this industry that is undergoing dramatic transformations. KSQD is developing exciting programming, including an "Inside Education" segment by our very own Les Forester. Please stay tuned!

Delta Celebrates 25 Years
Feb 9 - Delta Charter School celebrated 25 years since its founding. Speakers included Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Assembly member Mark Stone and other dignitaries. The school, a dependent charter located in Cabrillo College, inspires students within a safe, supportive, rigorous learning environment.

Leadership SC at the COE
Feb 1 - The 2019 Leadership Santa Cruz class came to the COE to learn about current issues in education. Their day included a presentation by me, lunch prepared by our CTE Program students and a lively question and answer session. Participants also visited Sequoia School, Tierra Pacifica, and Branciforte Middle School.

Upcoming Events
- Feb. 22 - PVUSD Parent Conference (WHS)
- Feb. 27 - Mock Trial Finals
- Feb. 28 - TICAL Ed Roundtable (COE)
- Mar. 1 - Calciano Youth Symposium
- Mar. 2 - Science Fair (Plantronics)
- Mar. 2 - QUEER Summit (Lakeview MS)
- Mar. 7 - Special Board Meeting 4-6pm
- Mar. 9 - Latino Role Models Conf. (Cabrillo)
- Mar 21 - County Board Meeting

COE Staff First Aid Training
Jan 31 - We have started offering staff CPR, DeFib, Epipen, and First Aid training by our own in-house trainers Christina Valentin and Brenda Ruiz. Training takes place over two days and participants receive certification.

Day Worker Center
Jan 31 - Jenny Russell, CAC Charter Head Teacher, and I visited the Day Worker Program in Live Oak. We met with Coordinator Maria Rodriguez-Castillo and spoke with several men who attend the Center. We discussed potential services we can offer through the CAC charter. We hope to work with Maria Elena de la Garza and Community Action Board to provide services to this community.
Educational Services

On February 4-6, the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP) received a state site accreditation visit, and we are pleased to announce the SC/SVNTP has received the unanimous recommendation of Accreditation from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing. “The team obtained sufficient and consistent information that led to a high degree of confidence in making overall and programmatic judgments about the professional education unit’s operation.”

After reviewing the data presented by the SC/SVNTP and stakeholder groups, the Accreditation Team recognized that the mentors are the heart of the work. They went on to express how much the teachers love their mentors. Specifically, teachers shared how mentors have created a positive, individualized induction experience for each of them. Our second-year teachers shared an appreciation for SC/SVNTP’s responsiveness to the feedback that has resulted in changes and additional choice presented in the Individual Learning Plan Roadmap.

Technology, Innovation, and Communications

The Technology, Innovation, and Communications Division is working to drive innovation, support our districts, and create transparent efforts around communications. Our communications committee met recently to finalize a vision and mission around SCCOE communications.

In order to stay compliant with accessibility laws, the division is working to setup trainings for staff on creating accessible web documents. Currently close to 30 staff members have been trained in making documents accessible for stakeholders with visual impairments. The division is also providing training in using Google’s productivity tools for collaboration and streamlining workflows. Currently close to 80 staff members have received training in Google productivity tools. To support these technology initiatives, the division has created a Technology and Innovation Leadership Team (TILT) with members from all divisions to support and train their peers in using technology effectively.

Working closely with audio/visual engineers the team is also working on redesigning the large meeting spaces at the COE to include state-of-the-art media that support professional learning for educators and creates a model 21st century learning center.

Finally, working on statewide and regional support, the COE will be hosting a statewide panel on February 28th that consists of a State Board Member, COE superintendents, CEO of Silicon Valley Education Foundation, and former president of Alliance for Education Excellence/Governor of West Virginia. The panel will be sharing how we should be preparing our schools for the next decade as we approach 2020.

Human Resources & Student Programs

CTEP
On Tuesday December 18, 2018, The Aptos High School Graphic Design and Video Production classes, taught by Reggie Trimingham and Joel Domhoff, celebrated their students becoming Adobe Certified Associates (ACA). These classes are offered through the Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s (SCCOE) Career Technical Education Partnership (CTEP) Program in conjunction with Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD).

Special Education
The HUB has been created to teach our students life skills. It is a simulated apartment where students get hands on learning experiences in order to become more self sufficient. The program is linked to Natural Bridges High school for mainstreaming opportunities with their peers.

Alternative Education
We had over thirty mid year graduates in January from all of our Alt Ed sites. The speeches and testimonials were all very moving. Our focus this year are in the areas of Science and Math, partnering with the countywide consortium BaySci.

Human Resources
The Santa Cruz COE Human Resources Department is working on becoming compliant in making HR documents and web pages accessible for people with visual disabilities. In addition, we have developed a Classified Summer Assistance Program, AB 1808. 1808 allows for ten month employees to defer payments to twelve months with a 50% match from the state on employee deferment.

Business Services
The Business Division has had many trainings in house and at PVUSD for all the districts across the county over the past month. Trainings are done with the vendor and with the Manager of IT, Monica Beverly. Monica has been doing many trainings one on one with each districts. The progress toward a July 1 kick off date is in target. In addition, the division internally is working on the second interim report, working on the Cypress Charter documentation, Preparing for the LCAP training and review season and managing the day to day fiscal operations of the SCCOE.