June 4-6 We celebrated the graduation of over 382 alternative education students and 104 Adult students from the Career Advancement Charter, 8 post secondary special education students, 24 medical assistants, and 24 dental assistant students this year. Celebrations took place at the Portuguese Hall and at Sequoia High School. Students described the challenges they have overcome and praised their teachers and other educators for supporting and believing in them.

Guelaguetza

May 19 - Senderos (local non-profit) and a variety of partners implemented a wonderful event that honors the rich cultural heritage of our immigrant community from Oaxaca. It stormed that day, but volunteers, artists, and families participated in droves despite the rain. Fe Silva, Nereida Robles and other leaders continue to do an outstanding job to highlight and celebrate the beauty of our cultural diversity.

Staff Picnic

May 17 - COE Staff came together at Harvey West Park to celebrate the end of the year with games, music, tacos, and camaraderie. Highlights of the event included a Ping Pong tournament. The event is a reminder of the special place the COE represents for staff.

Arts Experiences in our Schools

May 30 - Our collaboration with the Arts Council has provided our students with an array of experiences to find their voice through creative and artistic expression. The Art Expo at El Nido, our school at Cabrillo College in Watsonville, was exceptional.

Post Secondary Graduation

June 6 - One of the highlights of the year is to celebrate the graduation of our post secondary special education students. Using their own words, sometimes through communication devices, students shared their stories and their appreciation of their parents and their teachers’ support. The ceremony is powerful and inspiring, as are our students. We are very proud of each and every one of our graduates.

Strategic Plan

We have been working diligently to finalize our Strategic Plan, which will guide the Santa Cruz COE’s strategies, priorities, and initiatives for the next 5 years. While equity has been a deeply-held value within the Santa Cruz COE for many years, our new strategic plan calls out our commitment to equity more explicitly. We are planning a community event to formally release the plan within the next few weeks. More details to come soon!
College Signing Days  
**May 17** - I joined students from PVUSD as they declared their intended university destination on College Signing Day. The day was a lot of fun with over 175 students planning to go to a 4 year university. #EdServices

Food What?!  
**May 23** - Food What?! gathered leaders from across the county to present the conclusions of a recent study conducted on the non-profit that detailed its impact as a youth empowerment and food justice organization. We are proud to partner with them. #StudentPrograms

Countywide Science Initiative  
**June 10-14** - A new cohort of teacher leaders from every school district in the County participated in a week of professional learning for the implementation of the Countywide Science Initiative. #EdServices

Probation Center Grand Opening  
**May 30** - It was exciting to be a part of the opening of the new Probation Center, a one-stop shop for learners on probation. The COE is partnering with the Probation Department to provide educational services (High School Diploma and CTE) to adult clients visiting the service center. #StudentPrograms

Ed Leadership Summit  
**May 21** - Over 120 leaders from across the county joined us for a summit to discuss the effective implementation of technology. The event was coordinated by Jason Borgen and culminated with a keynote address by Google Chief Education Evangelist Jamie Casop. #tech+

A new Beginning  
**Apr. 27** - As of July 1, Cypress Charter will officially be part of the COE family of schools. I was able to be a part of the graduation ceremonies. We are currently busy recruiting students for the 2019-20 school year. #StudentPrograms

Upcoming Events
- June 20 - County Board Meeting
- June 27 - Capitol Advisors Workshop
- July 18 - County Board Meeting
- Aug 7 - Admin Kickoff
- Aug 19 - Staff Orientation
- Aug 21 - First Day of School
Division Updates

Student Support Services

Foster & Homeless Ed Summit

On June 12th the SCCOE FosterEd Program, in collaboration with both San Benito COE and Monterey COE, hosted a Foster Youth and Homeless Education Summit at Monterey Peninsula College for more than 300 people in the tri-county area. Conference topics varied from legal rights to trauma informed care to matriculation into post-secondary institutions. Numerous agencies and foundations tabled at the lunch break and all enjoyed the incredibly dynamic keynote speaker Dee Hankins and his focus on the concept of resilience. Learn more at https://www.deehankins.com.

BASTA Summer Camp

June 17th marked the start of the 7th annual BASTA Summer Sports Camp. This camp provides multiple sports coaching and experience over the course of 4 weeks, 4 days per week, 4 hours per day to an estimated 35 middle schoolers. Students are referred by law enforcement, family members, community agencies and/or schools for a variety of reasons. They receive not only athletic mentoring, but also social-emotional support to re-connect to positive peer groups and make lasting bonds with the camp staff, as well as learn team building, communication and conflict resolution skills. The camp is made possible through a collaboration with Santa Cruz City Schools, Santa Cruz Police Dept., 2nd Harvest Food Bank, the Alternative Education Dept., The District Attorney’s Office, and Santa Cruz Memorial.

Alternative Education

The Alternative Education Department hosted ten graduation ceremonies for Alternative Education and the Career Advancement Charter. More than 475 high school graduates received their diplomas this year! In addition, Summer School Sessions are underway for both Alternative Education and the Career Advancement Charter as well.

The Career Technical Education Partnership will be offering new college and career pathways in Food Service and Hospitality, Education, and Public Safety in the fall. These pathways will prepare students for high-demand career fields in the tri-county region. The three pathways also link directly to certificate or degree programs at Cabrillo College. Students in the Food Service and Hospitality pathway will become employees of the Seaside Company and earn a little money while learning about the different career opportunities at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk.
Division Updates (cont.)

**Educational Services**
Twenty-five teachers and seven teaching artist-facilitators attended the Summer Arts Integration Institute on June 10-13th for four days of visual, music, and performing arts instruction. The institute focused on integration with teachers selecting a core content area and an arts discipline to create a unit of study and toolkit of engaging student activities. The framework for the institute was Harvard's Studio Habits of Mind http://www.pz.harvard.edu/projects/the-studio-thinking-project

**Business Services**
The Business Services department is wrapping up the ESCAPE implementation to the point of printing our first Accounts Payable checks July 8th and soon thereafter payroll. They have also been receiving all the districts 2019-20 budgets that at first glance all appear approvable. The Business Dept. is undergoing a transition with a number of staff retiring. We thank our retirees for their many decades of service, and wish them all many fun, relaxing and adventurous years to come. Happy Summer COE Team!

**Technology, Innovation, and Communications**
The Technology, Innovation, and Communications Division has been working with the Alternative Education Department to launch the Santa Cruz County Probation Department computer lab and learning center. The Santa Cruz COE now provides support and computers with filtered internet services to the learning center on Water street.

The Technology, Innovations, and Communications Division is also working closely with Student Services to upgrade the audio and visual systems at Cypress Charter. Working closely with the Cypress staff, the division has also assisted in creating promotional materials including a website (cypress.santacruzcoe.org), a flier, and a video.

Summer projects are upon us and we are all excited for an innovative new year!

**Human Resources**
The Human Resources’ staff is diligently working on the HR/Payroll system conversion and recruitment for the 2019-2020 school year.