Integrated Behavioral Health

Nov 12 - The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has launched an initiative to integrate all mental health services in the county. This initiative is known as Schools Integrated Behavioral Health Initiative (SIBHI). We are partnering with County Mental Health, School Districts, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Encompass, United Way, and other agencies to improve the delivery of Behavioral Health services to our students. We hope this work will leverage more resources, preventative services, and more responsive interventions to address the Mental Health crisis among our youth within Santa Cruz County.

DACA Support

Nov. 8 - I joined Dreamer Gabriela Cruz, Ramiro Medrano, and dozens of students and community members to speak out in support of DACA in a protest at the Santa Cruz Clock Tower. The administration’s effort to end this program is currently being reviewed in the US Supreme Court.

County Board Action

This month, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education will hear a presentation from UCSC Chancellor Cynthia Larive about her plan for education in Santa Cruz County, present an award to a Santa Cruz Sentinel Education Reporter, Nicholas Ibarra, and hear updates about CAASPP information and a new Williams report on Santa Cruz County Decile 1-3 schools.

There will be two public hearings regarding the following:
- Petition to Renew PCS Charter School
- Petition for Material Revision of PCS Charter School

They will also consider approving the following:
- School Plans for Student Achievement for Alt. Ed Community and Court Schools

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 4-6 - Annual CSBA AEC
- Dec. 19 - County Board of Education Meeting
- Jan. 21 - COE Strategic Plan Event, Civic Plaza Watsonville
- Jan. 28 - COE Strategic Plan Event, MAH, Santa Cruz
Nov. 7 - The Superintendent's Department attended the 2nd Harvest Food Bank Annual Kickoff. Sage and Verenise are leading our fundraising effort this year to bring meals to our community and end hunger in Santa Cruz County.

Nov. 10 - We joined Jacob Martinez and Digital Nest to celebrate their 5th year serving the community. COE Boardmember Rose Filicetti was honored as a founding member of the Nest.

Oct. 29 - I was proud to speak at and attend the Employer Recognition Dinner to celebrate businesses and agencies that employ young people with disabilities.

Integrated Countywide Data
Nov. 21 - In January, our CTO Jason Borgen and I began presenting to school boards to discuss the possibility of creating a countywide data warehouse that would house information about our students to match the whole child and cradle to career approach to serve students. We are partnering with the Santa Clara COE and using their DataZone platform.

Economic Opportunities
We participated in the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership State of the Region Event. The event highlighted the many challenges that exist for our community, and Education was identified as a key catalyst in bringing opportunities to those in our area who need it most.

Nov. 21 - We joined multiple agencies to discuss ways for government agencies, non-profits, businesses, students, and the greater community can come together to create opportunity and wellness for the Pajaro Valley. The focus was on how to achieve meaningful Community Engagement.

Hunger Heroes
Nov. 7 - The Superintendent’s Department attended the 2nd Harvest Food Bank Annual Kickoff. Sage and Verenise are leading our fundraising effort this year to bring meals to our community and end hunger in Santa Cruz County.

Oct 30 - As he has done for years, Senator Bill Monning met with District Superintendents and COE Staff to discuss current state of educational legislation. He also welcomed the Superintendent’s feedback on the upcoming educational legislation.
Division Updates

**Alternative Education**

ESL, culinary, and Digital Nest elective courses are off to a great start and filling fast at the CAC, partly due to availability of childcare. Child Development and Parenting classes have been added as well. These classes invite parents to bring their infants and toddlers to the Child Development Center further expanding opportunities for participation in evening electives for CAC students.

Many of the Alternative Education Court and Community schools are involved in hands-on learning and community service projects throughout the county. El Nido is providing reading support to students in elementary school classes. Star Community School is focused on NGSS standards connected to soil testing. Dewitt Anderson is involved with the Arts Integration Project, whereby art and art history is incorporated into daily lessons with the application taking place on Fridays, assisted by a professional artist. Other schools are involved with the Homeless Garden Project, Jacob’s Heart, and Save Our Shores.

**CTEP**

CTEP is grateful to have received a donation from Big creek lumber for our CTEP construction classes at the Sheriffs Correctional Facility Rehabilitation and Recovery (R&R) and the Career Advancement Charter (CAC). CTEP will apply for a new Strong Workforce Grant that will focus on new computer pathways for students.

**Tech+**

The Technology, Innovation, and Communications Division (Tech+) has been moving forward with several trainings around our new email and calendar system with Google which will launch on December 30th at noon. We are offering over 10 training opportunities and have already trained over 20 staff members. We also have launched a new partnership with Cruzio as they are now our sole data provider in South County schools replacing Cruzio. Finally, we are working closely with the California Department of Education and local legislatures to develop legislation and possible funding streams to bring back the TICAL project to support school administrations use of technology and innovation across the state.

**Business Services**

The end of the calendar year is just around the corner and the Business Office is gearing up to process W2’s and 1099’s pulling data from two systems, combining and auditing. This process is for all of the Districts and Charters across the County. As a reference, last year we processed 9,168 W2’s and 818 1099’s. In addition, we are in short months for payroll with all the holidays. With luck PG&E will be able to maintain power so we can power through these huge tasks.
Division Updates (cont.)

Student Support Services
Student Support Services is excited to announce the addition of a crucial staff member to help with the Census advocacy work, Sarah Ferguson. Sarah will help with district, county, state and federal collaboration, media promotions, an arts contest, curriculum promotions, grant reporting, and grant completion. Prepare to be saturated by messages urging Census completion from schools as trusted messengers across the county!

November kicked off a new Schools Integrated Behavioral Health Initiative (SIBHI). Both a Steering Committee Meeting and Operations Team work began a journey to map, research, design, explore and collaborate around the idea of improving access, understanding, capacity, funding and system integration for all students and families in need of mental health or substance use treatment and/or prevention. Many of the key folks also attended an inspiring and information filled conference in Sacramento called Breaking Barriers to further and inform the effort.

Educational Services
November has been a busy month for the Ed Services division. All 10 county school districts came together for a two day convening of the Countywide Science Initiative at the beginning of the month. A highlight was a presentation by the Learning Policy Institute of Stanford University that shared best practices of districts who are closing the achievement gap for students. More science learning is happening with professional development for teachers, observations and science workshops. Our math team continues their work in supporting schools and is investigating different configurations for math walk-throughs for classroom observations. New Teacher Project is continually supporting our beginning teachers with culturally responsive pedagogy, mentorship and trainings. Lastly, the Young Writers Program celebrated a poetry unit culmination at B-40 Middle School, where students came together with their adult Writing Project Assistants to share their final poetry drafts with the class.

Human Resources
Santa Cruz COE Credential staff attended the 2019 Credential Counselors and Analysts of California Conference. Valuable information from the conference was shared at the Santa Cruz County Personnel Directors meeting.