Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
Date: March 19, 2014

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of February 20, 2014:

Please Mark Your Calendars:
Thursday, April 10th, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m./COE Tech Ctr.
In collaboration with the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association, we will present on the Impact of Local Control Funding (LCFF) on County and District Operations.

Mock Trial
Competition dates were February 6, 13, with semi, finals and awards on February 20. Soquel High and Santa Cruz High made it to the finals, with Santa Cruz High School winning overall. State competition is in San Jose on March 21st - 23rd. We held the competition at the Santa Cruz courthouse and had dozens of volunteers, including attorneys, judges.

National Laboratory for Education Transformation (NLET)
I met with a group at the Santa Clara COE for the purpose of expanding partnership to both San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. The discussion revolved around a National Science Foundation planning grant that NLET received to build the Silicon Valley’s capacity to support data-intensive research in education and to explore how best to partner on this initiative. Anne Campbell, San Mateo, Superintendent and Xavier De La Torre, Santa Clara, Superintendent, both participated.

Curriculum & Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) Leadership Symposium
I attended the 3-day CISC Leadership Symposium 2014 and proudly introduced featured speaker, Sugata Mitra, education researcher and 2013 TED prize winner. Dr. Sugata Mitra’s “Hole in the Wall” experiments have shown that, in the absence of supervision or formal teaching, children can teach themselves and each other, if they’re motivated by curiosity and peer interest. In 1999, Mitra and his colleagues dug a hole in a wall bordering an urban slum in New Delhi, installed an Internet-connected PC, and left it there (with a hidden camera filming the area). What they saw was kids from the slum playing around with the computer and in the process learning how to use it and how to go online, and then teaching each other.

Together for Kindergarten
I gave the opening address at the 5th Annual Together for Kindergarten Event, which took place at New Brighton Middle School, sponsored by our office, Head Start, and the Child Care Planning Council. The featured guest speaker was Sarah Crow, Director, Next Generation’s Children & Families Program. Also attending was Debra McMannis, Executive Director of the CA Dept. of Education’s Early Education and Support Division. The objective was to present an opportunity for early educators, kindergarten teachers and administrators within a school community to sit together and develop activities that support kindergarten readiness. Here is the
video link, which is on our website:
http://www.santacruz.k12.ca.us/ed_services/together_for_kindergarten.html

**Spelling Bee**
The COE hosted the Santa Cruz County Spelling Bee Championship at UCSC. San Lorenzo Valley High School freshman Ava Badger won the junior high division, missing only three out of 80 words. Ava and Susanna Talley, Monte Vista Christian School eighth-grader, will advance to the state championship in Marin in May. Rina Rossi, New Brighton Middle School sixth-grader, missed only five of 76 words, winning the elementary division. Rina Rossi, along with second-place winner Mary Hedrick, Mission Hill Middle School sixth-grader, will represent the county at the elementary state championship in Stockton in April. “Irresistible” and “chauffeur” were among the toughest words in the division, misspelled by all top three finalists.

**Youth Symphony**
I attended the second Youth Symphony Concert @ the Civic Center with Bonny Doon, Live Oak, Santa Cruz Gardens, Pacific Elementary, Orchard School, Spring Hill, VHM Christian School, De Laveaga School, Brook Knoll, Tierra Pacifica, Pacific Coast Charter, SLV Elementary and Gault School performing. The next day I attended the Youth Symphony Concert at the Mello Center with Calabasas Elementary, Linscott Elementary, Green Valley Christian, Hall District and MacQuiddy Elementary School performing.

**Patty Threet: SCCS New Board President**
Bryan Wall and I met with Patty Threet, new SCCS Board President and Superintendent Gary Bloom to discuss collaboration and partnerships, going forward under LCFF.

**Fire It Up! Student Culinary Showcase & Chef Competition**
I was invited to judge this ROP-sponsored competition held at the Museum of Art & History. ROP Instructor Chef Andrea Mollenauer, facilitated the sold-out event. Proceeds go towards student scholarships, classroom materials, food and equipment for the ROP Culinary classes.

**CCSESA Executive Committee Meeting Conference Call Arts Council**
I met with Michelle Williams, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz Art’s Council to discuss the Arts in Education and working collaboratively in the upcoming year. Our goal is to increase Arts Education opportunities for all students in the county. We will be working on submitted grants that support both organizations to fulfill this mission.

**S4C Steering Committee**
I met with Committee Members to discuss 7th Grade Summits, Nobel Laureate Presentations, 4th Grade Experience and the Career Pathways Trust Application. Also discussed were the Job Description for the Executive Director and the 501(c) (3) Status for S4C.

**ArtSmart**
I attended the show at the Mello Center to see guest artists Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir perform. Linda Tillery and the African Heritage Cultural Choir is a Grammy nominated, percussion driven, vocal ensemble whose mission is to preserve and share the rich traditions of African American roots music. Their music is rooted in the deep south and strongly connected to their West African and Caribbean origins. Three new schools joined us for this show -- MacQuiddy, Starlight, and Amesti. Each school brought 250 students.
Monarch Community School Reading
In celebration of Black History Month, I was invited to read to approximately 50 children, in grades 1-6. I read three books, one of which included the history of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. Eduardo Ochoa: New CSUMB President
I attended a reception for Dr. Eduardo Ochoa. The goal was to introduce Dr. Ochoa to local community members and expand CSUMB Programs into the tri-county areas. We discussed ways to help disadvantaged students become enrolled and successful in our local colleges.

LCAP Task Force
I participated in a CCSESA LCAP Support Task Force conference call where we discussed the draft LCAP Review and Approval Process. The LCAP approval process introduces a new type of oversight into county offices of education. Under E.C. #1240, county superintendents have always been charged with the oversight of schools and districts within their county. Under AB1200, that role significantly expanded to include a progressive method of oversight aimed at ensuring fiscal solvency. It is from these existing practices, as well as others through Williams oversight and Program Improvement, that county offices will build, develop and fine-tune our practices of oversight and approval of district LCAPs.

Special Education Task Force: Riverside
I attended this meeting, which was held at the California School for the Deaf in Riverside for the purpose of discussing various issues such as: Accountability within California, CTC Credentials, Processes and Policy Issues. Also, various subcommittees met and reported out on issues such as Educator Preparation, Evidence-Based Practices, Assessment and Accountability, Early Education Learning and Fiscal Issues.

California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) Symposium
I attended a three-day Symposium, where I participated in an Aspiring Superintendents presentation and discussion along with Dr. Judy White, Superintendent of Moreno Valley Unified School District, Dr. David Gomez, Executive Director for the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA), and Diane Marshall-Freeman, Partner in Fagen, Friedman & Fulfrom, LLP. In addition, I presented alongside Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Michael Kirst, President, California State Board of Education and Wes Smith, Executive Director, ACSA.

READ ACROSS AMERICA
I participated, as did many others, by volunteering to read to students at Happy Valley Elementary, Grades K-1 promoting literacy for all, which is a key goal of the SCCOE.

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR AWARDS
I attended the County Science & Engineering Fair Awards @ Cabrillo which was a result of over 400 students showcasing their independent projects to more than 100 judges on March 8. This event provides an essential foundation for new scientific discoveries, as well as mentoring opportunities for scientists and graduate students from our local universities.
Managers’ Meeting
Thanks to Aaron Hinde for his presentation to COE Managers on P.R. Marketing and Entrepreneurship. His talk was very well received.

Krause Center for Innovation (KCI)
I attended the KCI Awards Dinner which was held at the Microsoft Campus in Mountain View as a guest of Rose Filicetti, Community Advocate for Santa Cruz Connect. The purpose is to potentially partner and collaborate with their focus on innovation through educational technology, with an emphasis on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Latino Role Model Conference
On Saturday morning, I gave the opening address at the Latino Role Model Conference which was held at Harbor High School. The theme of the conference was JUNTOS (Together), due to the fact that everyone came together for the common cause of caring about the future of our students. Acknowledgement was made for the districts’ work and efforts in organizing the event, in reaching out to parents and the Latino community, to the parents and their role in their children’s education and appreciating their presence on a Saturday morning, and kudos to the youth, taking responsibility for their future by come to the event to learn more. Also, much appreciation was expressed to the Presenters to go and share their stories and wisdom with the next generation and their families.

Regular Monthly Meetings
Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
Migrant Head Start Videoconference
Criminal Justice Council
CCSESA Executive Board
CCSESA Agenda Committee
Children’s Network
S4C Steering Committee
CCSESA Board of Directors
Manager’s Meeting