CDE Positive Certification of COE Second Interim Report
The COE received the CDE positive certification of financial solvency in compliance with State Board of Education Criteria and Standards.

Grant Awards

Child Development Program
- $150,000 Packard Foundation collaborative grant with the Child Care Planning Council to design the blueprint for implementing a voluntary, universal pre-school extended learning plan to all children in Santa Cruz County in the two years prior to entering kindergarten.
- Citibank grant in the amount of $5,000 to fund a professional development workshop for pre-school teachers in the Raising a Reader program.

ROP
- $600,000 in shared funding over the next 18 months in partnership with the Cabrillo Career Technical Education Community Collaborative to work on career awareness and career exploration in the middle schools and strengthening the CTE programs at the ROP high school sites.

Regional Occupational Program
The educational research firm, WestEd selected ROP and Cabrillo as a model for exemplary partnerships and for building capacity in WestEd’s report to the State Legislature on funding under SB 70.

ROP Retail Merchandising Class
I received a letter of appreciation from Advanced Specialty Advertising Products acknowledging ROP instructor Nevenka Radich and her students’ work at the logo booth at the Watsonville Fly-in and Airshow. Quoting the letter, “Your program gives hope to the community that there are indeed young people who are being trained for work in the ‘real world’. Keep up the great work!” This is the sixth year that students volunteered their time.
Ms. Radich and her students were also acknowledged by letter for their volunteer work for two Agricultural History Project events, Easter on the Farm in March and Day on the Farm in May.

**Project IMPACT/Special Education, Intern Teacher Credentialing Program**

Project IMPACT is an intern teacher recruitment program modeled on a successful program operated by the San Joaquin COE. Project IMPACT is designed for teachers who want to complete their California Ed Specialist Mild to Moderate Level I and II credential while teaching full-time in Santa Cruz County. Nancy Serigstad, Project Coordinator, provided instruction to eleven participating interns in the first of the six module Framework for Teaching credentialing program this past Saturday. In the first module, Teachers as Learners, the candidates examined their own experiences as learners and explored the affects of those experiences on their teaching philosophy.

**Alternative Ed and Special Ed Graduations**

Thank you to Board Trustees who were able to attend a number of the graduation ceremonies. Alternative Education graduated a total of 152 students in seven separate commencement exercises. Special Education graduated six students from the Cabrillo campus and Soquel satellite class. These joyous occasions celebrate the achievements of some of the most challenged and at-risk students.

**Staff Acknowledgments**

The superintendents of the four one-school districts sent a letter of acknowledgement in appreciation of the services provided to the small districts by Jaime Perez, ELL Program Coordinator, and Frances Whitney, Math Program Coordinator.

**Pajaro Valley High School Commencement**

I was pleased to be a guest of honor along with several district dignitaries at the Pajaro Valley High School commencement of the first graduating class from the school.

**TICAL**

I received a letter from the assistant executive director of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) expressing appreciation of the services TICAL provides administrators throughout California, as well as the Association’s relief that TICAL was included for future funding in the Governor’s May Budget Revise. The California Department of Education notified Barney that the three-year contract, funded in the amount of $723,000 for fiscal year 2008-09, will be renewed, pending budget approval, for the period July 1, 2008 and continue through June 30, 2011. TICAL was created and funded by a grant awarded to the Santa Cruz County Office of Education.

**State of California Education Forum**

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero, Assemblywoman Ana Caballero, and the California Latino Legislative Caucus hosted the forum on June 5 at the Watsonville Civic Center. Presentations and panel discussion, of which I was a panelist, centered on English learners and academic achievement policy and research.
District Assistance Intervention Team (DAIT) Activities
Theresa Rouse, Director, Educational Services, and I met with team members from the Monterey County Office of Education, to begin fulfilling our responsibilities as a DAIT provider to requesting districts. Theresa has met several times with administrators and board trustees of the Greenfield School District, Monterey County, to implement DAIT services. Pajaro Valley Unified School District approved the Santa Cruz/Monterey DAIT as the District’s provider on a Board vote of 7-0.

Health Improvement Partnership Forum
I attended the second annual Health Improvement Partnership forum, a local consortium that addresses health issues at the local level. In addition to reports on childhood issues, including health insurance coverage and childhood obesity, we hear how four local employers are struggling to balance spiraling health care coverage costs with the needs of their employees.

Santa Cruz Climate Action Compact
The County Board of Supervisors formed the Commission on the Environment with the goal of offering advice on appropriate and effective environmental policies and programs for the Board’s consideration. The City of Santa Cruz and UCSC partnered to create a Climate Action Compact. The Compact seeks the expertise, and partnership of other local jurisdictions to design a portfolio of cooperative projects and invites the COE to partner in the effort to create a sustainable future for the County. Virginia Johnson, chair, Commission on the Environment will be here for the July meeting to provide additional information.

The Tannery Arts Center
I met with George Newell and Ceil Cirillo as representatives of the Board of Directors of the Tannery Arts Center. The organizers have asked for a representative from the County Board of Education to sit on an advisory committee that will recommend ways to enhance arts education advancement for elementary school through college in the County.

Rio Del Mar Elementary Distinguished School Ceremony
It was a pleasure to join with other celebrants at Rio Del Mar’s flag-raising ceremony acknowledging students and faculty for their being recognized as a California Distinguished School.

Employer Recognition Breakfast and Celebration
I joined the Student Support Services staff of the COE in welcoming employer representatives to a recognition breakfast at the COE to acknowledge local businesses that have provided work opportunities to students in our programs.

Dominican Advisory Committee
I serve as the education representative on the committee, the mission of which is to investigate ways to promote healthy life styles, health care and health education opportunities in Santa Cruz County.

Retired Public Employees Meeting
I appreciate the opportunity to address the Retired Public Employees Association to speak about education in Santa Cruz County.

**Chancellor’s Community Breakfast**
Chancellor Blumenthal, UCSC, annually invites community leaders to a breakfast meeting to reflect on education issues and strategize collaborative ways to move forward.

**Managers Accountability Evaluations**
I have met individually with each manager for a year-end review of their progress and accountability toward attainment of their goals as aligned to the Vision and Priorities document. I am pleased overall with ownership the managers associate with their goals.

**UCSC Education Partnership Center**
I met with Carol Moran, Director, EPC, to explore means to maintain the Girls in Engineering program which we will continue to support. The COE is collaborating with the EPC in submitting a grant application for funding.

**Humphrey Fellows Mentor Program**
This is the sixth year that Jo Ann Allen, Coordinator, Student Support Services, has coordinated a visit by Humphrey Fellow. The purpose is to explore education models that can be taken back to the home country. This year, Santa Cruz educators will provide mentorship to Ernest Liyatona, head of a school district in Rwanda whose interest is Educational Planning and Administration.

**Poetry Contest**
The COE partnered with Poetry Santa Cruz to sponsor the 15th annual County High School Poetry Competition and Award Ceremony. Fifty-three students from throughout the county participated and had their poetry published in the annual anthology.

**Regularly scheduled meetings**
- Steinbeck Board of Directors
- United Way Board of Directors
- New Teacher Project Steering Committee
- Migrant Head Start Board Meeting
- Workforce Investment Board
- First 5 Commission
- Superintendents’ Council
- Children’s Network
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council
- Pajaro Valley Prevention & Student Assistance