To: Trustees  
Santa Cruz County Board of Education  

Subject: Superintendent’s Report  
August 21, 2008  

Inside Education Leadership Series  
The orientation session of Inside Education, our series of seminars and site visits to inform and educate community and business leaders to education in Santa Cruz County, is scheduled for Monday, September 15. In addition to an orientation session, participants will meet with State Superintendent Jack O’Connell prior to the countywide educators event at 6:00 that evening.

Project IMPACT  
Our three-year pilot program which enables cohorts to receive full mild-to-moderate special education credentials at the end of the program ‘graduated’ our first preparation class of twelve teachers on July 25. The enthusiasm and gratitude expressed by those participants were testimony to the value of Project IMPACT. To access this opportunity in the past, teachers had to travel to San Jose or Monterey. Providing them the opportunity to accomplish their credentialing goals here where they work and want to teach is appreciated and highly valued. I again extend kudos to COE managers Nancy Serigstad and Traci Outtrim for coordinating this effort. The preservice graduation was a very complementary as well as moving event.

Project Write-Start  
To date, Project Write-Start, Students in Transition Program, which accepts donations to purchase backpacks for the homeless student population, has received over $8000 in donations and provided backpacks to over 500 students. Project coordinator, Nohemi Macias’ goal is to provide over 2,000 backpacks this year.

Special Ed Staff Development  
The Special Education Department is conducting staff orientation sessions this entire week here at the COE. Many newly hired teachers and instructional aides have received orientation and training the first part of the week. Full department staff is in sessions today and Friday.

Managers & Board Retreats  
I will defer to Jack to report on the Board Retreat last week, but wish to thank the trustees for attending and participating in the joint session with managers. The managers retreat sets the tone for our goals during the coming school year and, based on feedback following the retreat, am confident our managers are well prepared to realize their goals.
**Tri-County Latino Electeds Association**
Anna Caballero, Assemblymember, wrote me a thank you for participating as a panelist on the State of California Education forum roundtable discussion on state education legislation and policy which was held in Hollister, Saturday, July 26. Superintendent Nancy Kotowski, Monterey COE, Rosa Coronado, Regional Migrant Education coordinator, Esther Rubio, Monterey County Head Start Director, and I made up the education panel which addressed educational issues in the tri-county area at the Tri-County Latino Association Summit. Joe Coto, Assemblymember 23rd District, was also on the program.

**Wharf to Wharf**
It was an honor and great pleasure to have addressed the participants and observers as the annual Wharf-to-Wharf kicked off this year. Every opportunity to bring public schools to the attention of the community is a welcomed occasion.

**Community Forum**
I was the keynote speaker at a community event the Santa Cruz City Council Chambers. The forum promoted a countywide community dialogue on race, poverty, equality and justice.

**Letters of Appreciation**
I received a letter from Pat Johns, Santa Cruz County Agricultural Project expressing appreciation for the volunteer effort put forth by Nevenka Radich, ROP Retail Merchandising class, in support of the Strawberry Festival in Watsonville. Nevenka supervised over 30 ROP Impressions of the Pajaro Valley retail store students who volunteered their time the full 3-day duration.

**PAC 6**
Cabinet members and I joined our peers from six other Northern California county offices of education for two and a half days of workshops, seminars and job sharing. The current state of education, even beyond the budget crisis, seems to be accelerating the realization of the need for change within the public school system among our colleagues.

**African American Superintendents Retreat**
I attended an educational retreat this past Friday hosted by the Education is a Civil Right Committee. The committee is a coalition of African-American superintendents and administrators which focuses on closing the achievement gap that exists in the minorities student population.

**Upcoming Event Reminders**
- **Orientation** - This coming Monday, August 25th at the Cocoanoot Grove. We will begin serving breakfast at 7:45 a.m. followed by an introduction of new employees, presentation of awards to tenured employees who reach hire date milestones this year, and recognition of employees who have demonstrated
outstanding effort. Jennifer Abrams a nationally known educational speaker will deliver the keynote address at approximately 9:00 a.m. After the keynote, we will do a presentation highlighting some of our successes in meeting organizational goals during the past year. The program runs through 11:30

- **Countywide Boards and Educators Event** – Monday, September 15th at Chaminade. Boards trustees, superintendents, principals and other administrators are invited to attend this event which features State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell as well as a keynote address by Dr. Manuel Pastor, USC, who will speak on preparing students in the changing world environment. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Chaminade. An announcement is attached.

**Regularly Scheduled Monthly/Quarterly Meetings**

- First 5 Commission
- County Treasurer’s Oversight Committee
- Steinbeck Board of Directors
- United Way Board of Directors
- New Teacher Project Steering Committee
- Migrant Head Start Board Meeting

- Pre-school Steering Committee
- PVPSA
- First 5 Commission
- Superintendents’ Council
- Children’s Network