

June 2018 - Year-End Message

As the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) closes a demanding but productive school year, I want to recognize SCOE's employees for the dedication, talent, energy, and care they bring to work each day. Our amazing educators are making a visible difference in the lives of our students and their families every day!

Reflecting on the past year, I am amazed by all that SCOE has accomplished! Below are highlights of just a few of our endeavors:

Job Readiness Skills

- Partnered with Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, North Bay Apprenticeship Coordinators Association, Napa-Solano Building Trades, and the Robby Poblete Foundation to expose over 100 local high school students to post-secondary training opportunities that are outside the traditional college degree path. Students visited five apprenticeship training programs including Sheet Metal Workers, Plumbers and Steamfitters, Carpenters Regional Training Center, and Ironworkers.
- Implemented the Work Ready Certificate Program in partnership with our local school districts and the Chambers of Commerce in Fairfield-Suisun and Vacaville
- Partnered with Travis Air Force Base to launch the first ever Phoenix Spark Challenge: Design-Solve-Innovate competition
- Increased Workforce Development services for students with disabilities throughout our county

Every Young Person Can and Will Learn, Equity, and Student Achievement

- Celebrated our graduates of the Community School and Juvenile Detention Facility programs as well as students who completed our Transition and Post-Secondary programs
- Assisted our local school districts with professional development and differentiated support focused on improving student achievement
- Collaborated with local school districts to support development of their individual Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP), and promoted an understanding of the new accountability system
- Partnered with the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE) to support local educational agencies (LEAs) in achieving the goals set forth in their LCAPs
- Continued with our Special Education Department efforts to implement high-quality professional development training and a Professional Learning Community to further enhance our implementation of evidence-based practices and instructional effectiveness

Safe Schools and Youth Development

- Received grants totaling over \$2 million to provide educator training, school-based social-emotional support services, support for homeless students, support for students in developing job-readiness skills, and youth development activities and training including tobacco use prevention, civic engagement, and citizenship
- Expanded safe school support services focused on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) training and coaching to include 63 schools, which is close to 70% of the schools in Solano County
- Partnered with Solano County Health and Social Services and Child Welfare departments, organized and facilitated key events for education professionals and the community to create awareness and readiness in addressing the needs of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) in our county

Community Partnerships

- Convened the inaugural "State of Solano County Education Forum" where elected officials, business and community leaders, and educators gathered to hear about the state of education in Solano County from the superintendents of our local school districts, Solano Community College, and Solano County Office of Education
- Established new community partnerships and strengthened existing collaborations for the benefit of the children and families in our community
- Partnered with First 5 Solano Children and Families Commission to increase the number of preschool providers participating in the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) process for improving the quality of early education services. We now serve 64 providers including family child care homes, Head Start Infant/Toddler programs, California State Preschool, and Migrant Child Education programs.
- Hosted two free Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) Camps in partnership with UC Davis Computing-Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (C-STEM)

- Worked together with cities and veterans' organizations throughout Solano County to host the Operation Recognition ceremony during which eight veterans received their high school diploma after their education was interrupted due to military service in WWII, the Korean War, or the Vietnam War

Fiscal Accountability

- Discussed tough issues with our employee groups, and brought many of them to a positive closure including contract ratification of all bargaining unit agreements
- Monitored fiscal accountability and worked to ensure fiscal solvency of each of our school districts
- Effectively managed a budget over \$52.1 million

These achievements reflect the commitment and perseverance of staff throughout our organization and exemplify SCOE's Guiding Principles of LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, and SUPPORT! Through the extraordinary efforts of SCOE's employees over the past year, we have attained much for the benefit of our pupils!

Over the summer, we will take time to rest, recharge, and reflect in preparation for the start of the 2018-2019 school year next fall. I am excited for the coming year and look forward to continuing to work with SCOE's exceptional educational leaders!