

# BIG DEAL!

EXPECT MORE TEHAMA ANNUAL REPORT



# FINDING YOUR PATH

*Probably one of the most difficult challenges for youth (and many adults) is figuring out what they'd like to be when they grow up. Expect More Tehama celebrates the efforts being made to help our youth identify their values, skills and passions going forward. The following are just a few examples of this good work.*

## GUIDANCE FOR ALL AGES

While higher education is a solid path out of poverty for many, those lacking basic skills and confidence fail to pursue those options. California currently has the highest number of working low-income families in the United States and nearly half are without a high school diploma or GED.

In Tehama County, the Learning Center of Tehama County (LCTC) provided instruction to help adults learn English, obtain citizenship, and pass the GED from 1985 to 2001. Then, knowing that the LCTC was suffering financially, a newly formed charter school, eScholar Academy, offered to buy them out. With the purchase came a grant with the Department of Social Services (CALWorks) to continue offering the services to adults.

In 2011 State adult education funds were at risk. With California facing a fiscal crisis, the State allowed the high schools to keep the funds for general purposes. This left many adults without a way of obtaining their GED or high school diploma. eScholar's Harold Vietti was invited to attend a meeting at Shasta College to discuss how to help. He volunteered to start a high school diploma/GED prep program at eScholar Academy which would be available to anyone in need.

In January 2013, eScholar invited adults who were interested to come back to school. They started out with approximately 30 students and have since grown to just over 100 students.

"Not only do we now have the course, and allow students to enroll year round, eScholar was just approved to be the first GED Test Center in Tehama County," said Vietti. "Adults will be able to take the test at eScholar Academy sometime in January 2014."

More Good News for Adult Ed: Just two months ago, AB 86 was passed which develops a new pathway for providing services for adults. The Community College Chancellor and California Department of Education Superintendent will jointly provide 2-year planning and implementation grants to regional consortia of community college districts and school districts for the purpose of developing regional plans to better serve the educational needs of adults. Twenty-five million dollars have been set aside for this purpose.

**Learn more by visiting: <http://ab86.cccco.edu/>**

# FROSH SUCCESS

## Career Choices & the 10-Year Plan

This year both Los Molinos and Red Bluff High School are offering Career Choices and the 10-year Plan to all freshmen, incorporating this interdisciplinary curriculum into the mandatory personal computer and health course at Red Bluff High and the Health and Careers Course at Los Molinos High. The program helps students explore three fundamental questions: 1) who am I? 2) what do I want, 3) and how do I get it? The course culminates with an online 10-year plan that they can revisit year after year and adjust.

*"The Career Choices curriculum is a great addition to our Frosh Health and Computer Literacy courses. We have combined them into one course called Frosh Success. We have two groups of frosh students who switch from Health to Computer Literacy every week. We teach the Career Choices curriculum in both classes on the same day, so all frosh are getting the same content. This course is allowing students to think about their future right away as they enter high school, not until their junior or senior year. It has been great to see the 'ah ha' moments that the kids are having when thinking about how their choices now effect their success later in life."* -Cindy Haase, Teacher, Red Bluff High School

*"The career choices curriculum has been a welcome addition to our health and career exploration courses. We have really enjoyed seeing students make connections between what they are doing today and how that affects their future. It is great to see students taking school seriously and making decisions based on their future goals. We also really like incorporating the Math and Language Arts standards into the course. The curriculum is fun and interactive, and students thoroughly enjoy all the hands on activities."* - Heather Scala, Counselor, Los Molinos High School

**Learn more about Career Choices at [www.academicinnovations.com](http://www.academicinnovations.com)**

## Senior Seminar at Los Molinos High School

Nationally, there has been ample discussion around how to make the high school senior year more relevant. Although students complete most of their required classes in the prior grades, the senior year is key in applying for colleges, scholarships, and financial aid as well as learning life skills and preparing for the world of work.

This year, Los Molinos High School chose to begin a formal, daily senior seminar modelled after College Board's Senior Course. From guest speakers and field trips to discussions about budgeting and living away from home, the students are exposed to practical, real world knowledge, expectations and planning about their post-secondary options and the adult world.



# Elevations

In 2004, then California State University Counselor Helen Horyza was frustrated by the lack of tools available to help her students better narrow down their college major area of study. She felt strongly that the right tool needed to incorporate personal values as well as skills and natural abilities. She developed a card sorting exercise which she named Elevations. Today, the assessment is provided in an interactive online format that helps both students seeking direction and adults in transition. The drag and drop methodology puts the "control" in the hands of the student which empowers them to think about their options rather than seek an answer from a "test".

In August, the Job Training Center invited Helen to provide two workshops while training staff in the process.

"We work with people wanting to find the right career fit every day," said Kathy Sarmiento, Job Training Center CEO. "The assessment and the workshop offer a great deal of clarity and excitement."

In September, the seniors at Los Molinos High School were able to take the assessment and workshop.

"There are 60,000 job titles in the world right now, which can be so overwhelming," said Sarmiento. "The workshop helps you look at your personality, your natural abilities and then offers job titles and research, decision making and action planning tools. It's a great new tool we have to offer."

**Learn more about Elevations at [www.elevateyourstudents.com](http://www.elevateyourstudents.com)**



A photograph of a man and a young boy smiling and looking at something together. The man is on the right, wearing a light blue button-down shirt. The boy is on the left, wearing a pink shirt. They are both looking down at something in the boy's hands, which is partially visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and white.

# BREAKING THE CYCLE

When a minor enters the juvenile justice system, the community suddenly faces the fact that something has gone terribly wrong in the child's life. Anytime a child is hurt or causes harm, the fabric of a community is degraded.

At Tehama County Probation, community partnerships have developed to heal and support young offenders while they pay restitution and deal with the consequences of their crimes.

This careful approach is designed to reduce criminal recidivism and open doors to healthy, productive lives for the young offenders. It offers an avenue to break what is often a generational cycle of substance abuse, poverty and criminality.

His Honor, Matthew McGlynn, the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, has gathered a team of Criminal Justice and school officials to focus on truancy issues. A truancy handbook was developed and Truancy Court convened to provide early intervention to those

youth identified as truants.

Partnerships between juvenile justice and education are resulting in more productive use of time spent on school suspension and are helping to ensure that minors graduate from high school, regardless of where they spend their time (juvenile detention, independent study or on a school campus). They are even supporting higher education!

The school and criminal justice partnership has also grown in that the AB 109 Community Corrections Partnership has funded a program to train school officials as trainers in Social Responsibility Training (SRT). SRT is an evidence-based practice designed to help break the cycle of criminality.

Juvenile Offenders are also offered Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), a cognitive behavioral treatment system for offenders and at-risk groups. MRT provides a system for our young offenders to understand themselves and their

behaviors while benchmarking steps to change through honesty, accountability, and introspection.

Behavior issues are often first identified by the community in a school setting. For many young offenders, this leads to school suspension. Within the Red Bluff High School District, a suspension is no longer a day off from school! Through a voluntary program, suspensions can now be done in-house under the supervision of a Probation staff member who oversees community service work. The youth, who may or may not be on Probation, receives work experience and school credit, while the school also receives average daily attendance.

Community Service is extended further for young offenders who may be ordered by a judge or their Probation Officer to pay off fines or perform acts of restitution. Graffiti eradication has become a large project of this program, but so has park clean up, landscape work and volunteer service for local non-profits.

Parents of young offenders are supported to grow in relationship with their children through parenting classes offered by a Probation Officer and the resource providers she brings in on a weekly basis.

Rounding out these innovative opportunities are Drug and Alcohol services offered through the Tehama County Health Services Agency and teen pregnancy prevention curriculum offered at the Juvenile Justice Center weekly through the office of Student Support Services at the Tehama County Department of Education.

Each effort of community connection supports the work of our well trained, supportive and dedicated Probation Officers and Juvenile Justice Center staff.

When working with some of our most vulnerable young people, it behooves us to bring in the best in terms of relationships, resources and care.



# CHAMPIONING PARENT ENGAGEMENT

*Since the first Expect More Summit, it has been clear that parent engagement is a top priority but not a necessarily an easy challenge. Schools, agencies and non-profits have had to get creative in their approaches to forming relationships and engaging the support and partnership from this key stakeholder group.*

## There's an App for That!

***Red Bluff High Counseling Department uses technology/events to engage students and parents***

For parents and students at Red Bluff High School, there are some new options and events this year, thanks to a high energy counseling department. A dynamic Facebook page and Remind 101, a texting service, have made keeping up on dates, deadlines and current events safe and easily accessible.

The counselors have also worked hard to create a positive college going culture including College Mondays where students and staff are encouraged to wear their college gear; Classroom Presentations where counselors teach students how to read their transcripts, learn about college requirements and provide resources for college and career exploration; College Knowledge Night, an event for parents of 10-12 graders, aimed at providing essential college going information; App Attack, a campaign where the counselors and CollegeOPTIONS team up to assist every senior to submit a college application; and Frosh Future Focus Night, an evening for 9th grade parents to learn how to be successful in high school and what to do now to be strong college applicants.

In late November, a special new room, the Go Center, will open on campus. Dedicated to college and career readiness, it will be utilized by CollegeOPTIONS, college representatives and staff, and will be open to students at lunch and after school.

***Visit [www.rbuhd.k12.ca.us/counseling](http://www.rbuhd.k12.ca.us/counseling) and be sure to "like" the Counseling Department of Facebook***



## Adopting the NEU school model

*Over the past several years, many schools in the county have adopted a college going culture on their campus. One popular model is the No Excuses University. Jackson Heights has embraced the spirit of the model.*

Jackson Heights Elementary School is a proud member of the No Excuses University (NEU) national network of schools. College readiness is not the expectation that all students will attend college, but instead, it is the belief that we must prepare all students to have a full range of postsecondary education and training options available to them after high school. Jackson Heights believes that elementary education is the foundation for all future academic achievement. All of their classrooms have adopted a College or University and they proudly wear their college colors every Friday.

Adopting the No Excuses University model has provided staff the opportunity to commit to a culture of 'Universal Achievement' for all students. In an effort to support this goal, they implemented an extended day for all students; a Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) training for parents; intersessions; and MAP assessments. Teachers collaborate to develop Common Core State Standards lesson that support text complexity, informational text, and close reading for comprehension.



# IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND

## SCOTT'S WILDERNESS TEAM

For several years Scott Chandler has been involved in the leadership of Expect More Tehama, but always wanted an education “project” he could call his own.

While backpacking with some friends in Lassen Volcanic National Park, they ran into a group calling themselves the Petaluma Wilderness Team. This group takes high school kids backpacking -- kids that might normally not get to visit a National Park, much less go backpacking in one. Chandler's group looked at each other and knew instantly that Tehama needed a Wilderness Team.

A small grant was obtained -- enough to purchase tents, sleeping bags, backpacks and cooking sets for six kids. A partnership with PAL (Police Activities League) was formed, and with the support of both the Lassen Park Foundation and Lassen Volcanic National Park, six boys, aged 13-16, went on their first backpacking trip this past summer.

During the trip, the boys spent three days and two nights traveling around the Lassen Wilderness, climbing Cinder Cone in the process, and ending with the much anticipated “Burgers in Chester.” They learned to respect the wilderness and our National Parks; what clothes to wear to stay safe and comfortable; how to set up camp and cook meals; as well as how to “leave no trace” behind from their travels. Scott and the team hope to do a repeat of this trip next year and add an all-female trip.







## EXCURSIONS

*“Experience, travel; these are an education in themselves” – Euripides*

During a class discussion one day at Los Molinos High School, many students shared that they had never attended a cultural, live performance. Teacher Kathryn Grayson realized that a club was necessary. However, the reality is that many schools no longer offer arts education programs and field trips are few and far between. Grayson thought that creating a club would benefit not only the students in general, but those who might be interested in artistic careers as well.

In January 2013, Los Molinos High School started their Excursions for Theatre and Culture Club with the goal of helping students raise funds to attend cultural events outside the area. The trips are meant to allow students to experience educational and cultural experiences and exhibits related to their class subjects.

Earlier this year, the Club put together their first major fundraising activity; an art and talent show. They exhibited art, creative writing, woodwork, metal work, and performed both vocal and instrumental performances. Over the course of the year, the group held several more activities such as car washes and cupcake sales and were able to travel to Ashland, Oregon to attend the Shakespearean Festival and San Francisco to visit several museums. The Club also plans on making trips to Chico and Sacramento later this year.

Art is an important part of youth development, and plays a big part in educational awareness. Thanks to teachers like Kathryn Grayson, students are able to attend and experience these educational activities. Becoming familiar with cultural events and visiting other parts of the state benefits students in making decisions about their academic futures and seeing more of what the world has to offer.



## Brendon Flynn + Gerber + T-Shirt Project

Family and friends of the Flynn’s in Gerber have a good chance of running into a student with a college logo t-shirt that resonates with them.

Last Spring, Brendon Flynn and Pacific Farms purchased over 30 college logo shirts for the 8th grade class at Gerber School. They provided a list of their own alma maters and those of friends and family members. Expect More Tehama tracked down the shirts, including the colleges they listed, and then some.

Brendon visited the class to help hand out the shirts and shared about his own path to college and what his job is today at the family farming operation.

## Enjoy Movies in the Park

Thanks to the generosity of the Enjoy the Store in Redding and Red Bluff, local area residents were treated to two movies this summer projected onto an amazingly large blow-up movie screen.

The movies, Hugo in June and Charlotte’s Web in August, were shown at the Red Bluff River Park with several hundred in attendance. Both featured a great Tehama Reads book giveaway.

“The idea is to provide free, wholesome family entertainment and a good book for the kids to take home.”  
-Kate Grissom

Tehama Reads hopes to partner with Enjoy the Store in Red Bluff again next summer to expand the movie offerings.



# Employing Youth

*Local businesses offer real  
“on-the-job” experience*

Having a job as a teen or young adult has immense benefits to society in general. These are often the opportunities that first teach young people the know-how, technical skills and essential “soft skills” to hold a job and later launch a career. Sadly, youth employment is at its lowest level since World War II and many young people reach adulthood without any work experience. Businesses like Julia’s Fruit Stand, Pumpkinland Chocolate Company, Luigi’s Pizza, NuWay Market and Bud’s Jolly Kone are just a few of the Tehama County Businesses helping youth get that first experience and first paycheck.

“When we give a teenager their first job, we have high expectations for them but realize that they will need guidance as well. At our business, they need to engage with the public which includes people of all ages. Some teenagers are shy and haven’t engaged in much conversation with adults outside of family. We feel teaching them to communicate positively is a lifelong skill that they will utilize no matter what field of work they end up in. Another challenging task that we teach is counting back change. It’s a good skill to have and it also helps with engaging with customers. Because this is often the first place of employment for many of our workers, they lack direction in knowing what to do when there are not customers to serve. Often laziness is confused with them not knowing what to do next. We encourage them to find something, whether it is sorting tomatoes or peaches or dusting off our bottled products. There is always something to do, even if we aren’t there to tell them.”  
– Kathy Brandt, Julia’s Fruit Stand

## 2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR: JENNIE CAYLOR

Jennie Caylor, Learning Center Teacher at West Street School in Corning, was named the 2013 Teacher of the Year by the Education Foundation at Farm City Night in November.

Jennie says she tries to be an exemplary teacher by having the qualities and characteristics that show her peers, administrators, parents and students that the kids come first.

“I believe that students deserve precise and explicit teaching where they are at...I don’t want to push them beyond what they are ready



for, and I don’t want to teach them what they already know.”

Special congratulations to the 2013 Teacher of the Year Jennie Caylor!

## WALMART D.C. PROVIDES MI FUTURO AT VISTA

Thanks to Walmart Distribution Center’s Darwyn Jones and his management team, a cohort of 37 students are experiencing the Mi Futuro program, a Walmart sponsored mentoring program for 8th graders.

The purpose of the program is to “motivate, engage and empower students who have demonstrated high potential, yet could potentially become at-risk.” Each month the students and the mentors meet at the Vista library and hear from a visiting presenter. The group has met with a dentist and in November, they group will visit PJ Helicopters for a college and career presentation and tour. This is the second year of the program.

## College & Career Fair

In early November, Corning High School held its annual College and Career Day Fair, hosting over 30 colleges, trade schools and businesses on campus.

- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Butte College Welding                                     | 16. North Valley Services         |
| 2. California Conservation Corps                             | 17. Peterson Caterpillar          |
| 3. California Dept. of Transportation                        | 18. Shasta College: Redding       |
| 4. California National Guard                                 | 19. Shasta College: Tehama        |
| 5. College of the Siskiyous                                  | 20. Simpson University            |
| 6. College Options   | 21. Tehama County Public Works    |
| 7. Crane Mills   | 22. The Art Institutes            |
| 8. California State University: Chico                        | 23. U.S. Coast Guard              |
| 9. Center for Bilingual/ Multi Cultural Studies at CSU Chico | 24. U.S. Naval Academy            |
| 10. Enloe Education Center                                   | 25. U.S. Marines                  |
| 11. Fashion Institute of Design & Marketing (FIDM)           | 26. U.S. Navy                     |
| 12. Feather River College                                    | 27. Universal Technical Institute |
| 13. Institute of Technology                                  | 28. Western Oregon University     |
| 14. Lincoln College of Technology                            | 29. WyoTech                       |
| 15. National Park Service                                    | 30. National University           |



# THE POWER OF LITERACY

*In 2010, the Annie E. Casey Foundation published A Kids Count Special Report titled, Early Warning! Why Reading by the End of Third Grade Matters. The report emphasized the link between reading proficiency and higher rates of school dropout, increased risk of future incarceration and low wage earnings in life. To read proficiently, children need to be ready for school, attend school regularly and have high quality learning opportunities. Expect More Tehama believes that the community can play an important part in championing literacy at all ages and raising awareness about our moral responsibility to make sure children read (and write) well. In 2011 Tehama Reads was launched as a special initiative to stand behind school readiness and reading proficiency. To learn more visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).*

## Literacy Grant is Making a Difference

CLIP (Children's Literacy Intervention Project) is a research-based literacy intervention for preschool through third grade students designed to eliminate the achievement gap. CLIP targets students identified as at risk of reading failure and serves Corning Elementary students at Columbia and Olive View State Preschools and West Street and Olive View Schools. CLIP is a six week intervention delivered in a 30 minute small group format with three to four children, four days a week. The core of the program is reading over time with a strong integration of research proven strategies to support the overall goal of comprehension. CLIP is also aligned to the Common Core Standards.

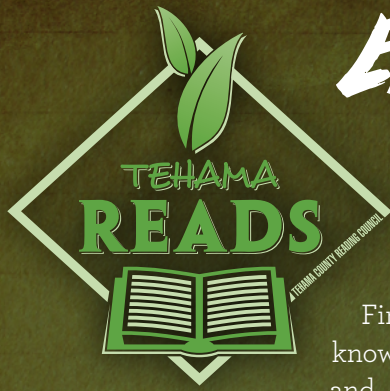
Of the 212 students participating in CLIP during 2012-13 school year, 47% made a six point or higher standard score gain on a normed nationally recognized assessment. This is significant growth which substantiates the effectiveness of this program.



This year CLIP has a family resource staff focused on empowering families during interactive, hands on family meetings held three times throughout the six week intervention. During these meetings, families report that they appreciate learning to understand the data (their child's and of the group) and creating goals to hold them accountable for supporting their child's literacy development at home. Families create their goals at the beginning

of the six weeks and then revisit them during the last meeting. Families who participate in the meetings receive and are given guidance on how to use Nooks with their students. The Nooks come loaded with over 50 books to support varying reading levels. These meetings are well attended and families share that they really appreciate the opportunity to learn and utilize new technology with their children.





# EMPOWERING LITERACY

Great organizations like Head Start, First Five Tehama and our preschools know that students who start pre-school and kindergarten ready to learn; and who learn to read and write well by third grade, are better prepared to take advantage of higher education options down the road. Expect More Tehama would like to help spread this message and promote it as a community responsibility. If so much rides on obtaining these key skills, then everyone must ensure kids have what they need from birth on. In 2012, Tehama Reads was launched.

Recently, the leadership team of Tehama Reads reorganized its structure to improve efficiency. They are excited to have Nancy Veatch coordinating efforts through her position at the Tehama County Department of Education, and are also excited to have joined forces with the Tehama County Reading Council. The new structure calls to support five significant initiatives: Community Presence, Strengthening Schools, Events, Resources, and Summer Learning. At the hub of it all is the focus on a community presence of literacy for all ages and learning (and reading) all summer long.

For kids without books or access to enrichment activities, summer is often a time of learning loss. For the second year, Tehama Reads was able to load a book mobile with books and visit kids in outlying areas. At Gerber Park and Friendly Acres Mobile Home Park, Tehama Reads was able to give away special backpacks filled with 20 books each to over 120 students. Volunteers took turns manning a Tehama Reads booth at Red Bluff Farmers Market where they gave away hundreds of books and accepted book donations. One teacher donated over 400 books alone! Thanks to the Reading Council, hundreds of books were given away during the Red Bluff Round-Up Parade and the Los Molinos 4th of July Parade.

Reading well changes lives, and that's a big deal in Tehama County.



## SUMMER READING: 10,177 BOOKS CHECKED OUT

The history of libraries dates back to ancient history. Throughout time, libraries have provided people with the opportunity to read and the ability to learn. Over the past decade, libraries all over the United States have been facing operating challenges. The role of public libraries is being examined and a new library of tomorrow is being discussed.

The Tehama County library was established in 1916, and since then has provided the community with a place for reading, research, homework, and computer access. County Librarian Sally Ainsworth has held reading programs for children at both the Red Bluff and Corning libraries for 20 years. In the past two years, she has partnered with the Department of Education in Red Bluff to give students the ability to take Accelerated Reading (AR) program tests during the summer (something they would normally do during the school year). The reading program focuses on preschool and elementary school children, and takes place for six weeks. This past summer, the library also incorporated an incentive program. Every time a child passed his or her accelerated reading test, they would receive one raffle ticket. At the end of the summer, the raffle was drawn, and the lucky winner won a Barnes and Nobles gift card.

The accelerated reader program allows children to dedicate themselves to becoming improved and better readers all around. With the partnership with the library and education, students are able to continue their reading throughout the entire year. Most impressive, over this past summer, 10,177 books were checked out!



# THE BIG READ

The Tehama County Arts Council in partnership with the Tehama County Library is pleased to introduce the Big Read to Tehama County. It's a Big Deal!

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment. The NEA presents The Big Read in partnership with Arts Midwest.

In Tehama County, our Big Read is Love Medicine by Louise Erdrich. An eclectic range of comic and tragic

voices narrate this powerful book about the enduring power of love. Erdrich leads the reader through

the interwoven lives of generations of Kashpaws and Laramies in North Dakota.

To schedule a book discussion and obtain free support materials, including readers' guides and book marks, email [tehamabigread@gmail.com](mailto:tehamabigread@gmail.com). For more information, visit [www.neabigread.org](http://www.neabigread.org). Click on Communities to see what's happening in Tehama County!



## Botts Believes in Books

Jill Botts believes that every child should be able to read, and having access to free books plays a big role.

A few years ago, Botts attended the Expect More Summit and was inspired to help children learn to read on a larger scale. She was already involved with Breakfast with Santa, an event that takes place every year in the Los Molinos Unified School District. The event is open to all children to have breakfast, talk to Santa, and receive a book to take home. Jill took this event as a stepping stone to what would come next.

Botts was able to receive a grant from Rolling Hills Casino and began to purchase books. Through the website, [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org) and [www.heartofamerica.org](http://www.heartofamerica.org), she has been able to collect over 1000 books for children ages 0 to 18 years old. Jill is continuously applying for book donations and giveaways from websites. Four times a year, children from the schools all receive a book to take home, read, and keep for themselves. Not only has Jill worked with the Los Molinos School District, she has expanded her efforts to other areas as well. She has sent books to the SERRF after school program in Rancho Tehama; Driftwood School in Port Orford, Oregon; and even to a school in Los Angeles where her son teaches.

In the next year, Jill hopes to expand her book project to be able to help more children receive their very own books. When she's not collecting books, Botts is also the school board president for Los Molinos Unified School District. She works with Vina Elementary, Los Molinos Elementary, and Los Molinos High School.

Visit [www.firstbook.org](http://www.firstbook.org) and [www.heartofamerica.org](http://www.heartofamerica.org)





# COMMUNITY BOOKSHELVES AND *Free Libraries*

The best predictor of whether a child reads, especially over the summer, is whether or not he or she owns books. With over twenty percent of our residents living in poverty, buying books is often a luxury item.

Over the past year, four community bookshelves were established to make free books available for children of all ages to take home. Lassen Medical Center staff, First 5 Tehama, Red Bluff Rotary and Tehama Reads partnered on a bookshelf placed in the lobby of the pediatrics department which annually sees over 7,500 children. The Soroptimist International of Red Bluff partnered with Richfield School and Olive City Lube to place an oil drum shaped bookshelf at the worksite. Americorps volunteers and the Tehama county Department of Education School Readiness Program placed a bookshelf at Daisy's Ice Cream in Corning and Main Street Treasures in Red Bluff has their own bookshelf in the store.

"Lassen Medical Group is happy to have the opportunity to participate in promoting early reading. Having the book self in our Pediatric department has made a positive impact on children and parents. Our staff has observed a growing number of parents interacting and reading to their child while they are waiting for their appointment. It is a joy to see the smile on the children's faces, when they find out they can take their favorite book home." -Stephanie L. Austin, Patient Service Manager

*"It is a joy to see  
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*-Stephanie L. Austin,  
Patient Service Manager*

Each of the sites is responsible for keeping their bookshelf stocked with new and gently used books.

Over the summer, books were collected weekly at the Farmer's Market in Red Bluff and continue to be collected and kept at the Department of Education library. A similar effort, Little Free Library, encourages free books for public use. One is currently located at the Department of Education and one at Gerber Park.



# BIG STORIES

## EVERETT FREEMAN PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE

In 2009, a new grant opportunity was initiated from the federal government aimed at helping entire neighborhoods transform into vibrant communities. The President's Promise Neighborhood grants first provided a select number of generous planning then implementation grants to qualified communities showing a strong data driven strategy for strengthening services from cradle to career. Thanks to the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, a Corning community poised for quick collaboration, and amazing grant writer Matt Russell, Corning received a \$500,000 Promise Planning grant in 2012 -one of just ten awarded in the country.

The purpose of Promise Neighborhoods is to "significantly improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children and youth in our most distressed communities, and to transform those communities by:

1. Identifying and increasing the capacity of eligible entities that are focused on achieving results for children and youth throughout an entire neighborhood;
2. Building a complete continuum of cradle-to-career solutions of both

educational programs and family and community supports, with great schools at the center;

3. Integrating programs and breaking down agency "silos" so that solutions are implemented effectively and efficiently across agencies;
4. Developing the local infrastructure of systems and resources needed to sustain and scale up proven, effective solutions across the broader region beyond the initial neighborhood; and
5. Learning about the overall impact of the Promise Neighborhoods program and about the relationship between particular strategies in Promise Neighborhoods and student outcomes, including through a rigorous evaluation of the program."

In Corning, the Everett Freeman Promise Neighborhood Initiative was launched with a community survey followed by three working groups (Early Learning, School Reform, Family Engagement and College & Career Readiness) focused on identifying gaps in service, needs and possible solutions. After completed, the

goal was to submit the plan to the US Department of Education through a competitive grant process for major funding to implement the continuum of solutions. However, due to funding issues through the 2013 continuing resolution budget, no new grant competitions were held for the Promise Neighborhood program this year.

"When the funding is available, we'll be ready," said Superintendent of Schools Larry Champion.

Related to the grant was news in September that Corning received nearly \$1,000,000 to improve safety in distressed neighborhoods through a grant from the Office of Justice Program's Bureau of Justice Assistance, a part of the Promise Zones Initiative. Just 14 grants were awarded nationally. The grants "help build and enhance the capacity of communities and criminal justice partners to employ data-and research- driven strategies to create comprehensive strategies to address priority crime problems..With BCJI funding, communities leverage research and innovation, identifying the drivers of crime in a location and developing multi-faceted strategies to reduce it."

*To learn more visit [www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org](http://www.promiseneighborhoodsinstitute.org) and [www.buildingpromise.org](http://www.buildingpromise.org) and [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov)*





# Raising Hope

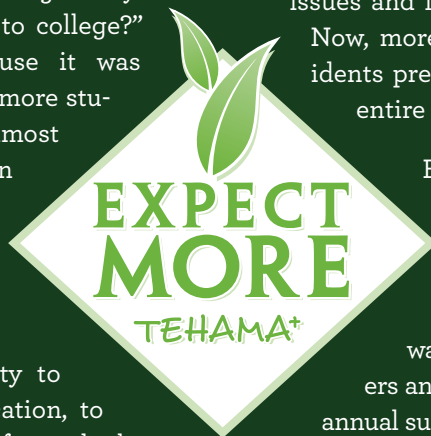
Education is a natural part of a community's landscape. We typically count on 180 days of backpacks and homework, field trips, and friendships, year in and year out. But education is more than what happens in school, and each community influences education, and the existing cultural attitude about learning.

In 2009, a small group met for coffee in Red Bluff and wondered why more students weren't going to college. They began to ask students, "Why did you go to college?" The answer was almost always, "Because it was expected." They asked adults, "Why aren't more students going to college?" The answer was almost always, "Because it just isn't expected." An expectation is a hope, and the group saw this as an opportunity to raise hope and see both students and the community benefit. Expect More Tehama was born.

The local movement asks Tehama County to become engaged and excited about education, to value learning and to understand what the future looks like for our students. It aims to ensure that all students leave high school prepared to have options to attend the military, trade and vocational school, community college, apprenticeships, or a university. That preparation includes both solid academics, positive relationships with adults, and becoming familiar and comfortable with the very concept of higher education. It maintains that it is not the sole responsibility of our education system to teach and mentor our students. We all have a role to play.

Rural areas generally have a lower percentage of residents with higher education. One of the most telling indicators of

whether or not someone will attend college is simply their zip code. The closer you live to a college or university, the more likely you are to attend. With the loss of a major portion of the forest products industry during the 80's and 90's, and with the related disappearance of so many well-paying jobs, the north state has struggled to build a better skilled workforce. Higher education brings benefits to the individual and the community including less poverty, crime and health issues and increased business vitality and innovation. Now, more than ever, we need all students and residents prepared, not just in Tehama County, but the entire region.



Expect More Tehama realized there were many wonderful programs in place, but often without adequate marketing or resources. Many segments of the community were isolated from each other. Here was a great opportunity to convene stakeholders and initiate some meaningful conversation. An annual summit provides that forum. At each gathering, the underlying question continues to be, "What can we do or put in place that will raise expectations and support youth in continuing their education and skills beyond high school?" Each forum includes education, business, government, faith based, service type organizations and more.

"The summits allow us to tap into a powerful collective brain trust," said Kate Grissom, Director of Marketing at Rolling Hills Casino, an Expect More Leadership member and a parent. "The discussion and ideas fuel the energy and purpose that's been created."

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# RAISING HOPE

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Expect More Tehama is made up of passionate volunteers whose main role is to connect, convene and coordinate ideas and resources. When more people know the amazing things going on, it fuels increased involvement, support and excitement.

One goal has always been to make the map to college simple and clear for students and parents. Expect More Tehama was able to combine local resources to bring a single CollegeOPTIONS advisor to Tehama County in 2010. CollegeOPTIONS, based in Shasta County, helps students and parents figure out their individual plan for college. Are students taking the right classes? Exploring options? Visiting campuses? Signing up for scholarships and making deadlines? Today they have a full time director and staff in Tehama County and provide support at middle and high schools.

"We first brought CollegeOPTIONS to Tehama County to show eighth graders how choosing the right classes in high school provides them options after graduation," said Grissom, "Today, they support the high school counselors, arrange trips and events and help make sense of getting to college, whether it's the financial ins and outs or the academics."

Today, many schools and the Department of Education have also adopted a No Excuses University (NEU) model that builds a college culture at school. Mrs. Pooler's fourth grade class at Lassen View School proudly hangs a Chico State Flag outside their classroom every day, and on Friday's the students wear their Chico State shirts. Whether or not they all choose to go to college, the students will at least understand the concept and possibly see themselves as a future college



student. Every class at the school has adopted a college, including the front office (UCLA) and the Bus Building (UC Davis).

Over time, efforts have also focused on younger students. Expect More Tehama launched Tehama Reads, a school readiness and literacy initiative to champion reading proficiency as a community and moral responsibility. This initiative was in response to the release of a report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation that linked third grade reading proficiency with the probability of future drop-out rates, incarceration and poverty. The effort includes community bookshelves that encourage children to take books home; summer book mobiles delivering books to outlying areas; a connection with the libraries and education that provides a summer reading and incentive program and free book giveaways at Enjoy Movies in the Park and Red Bluff Farmer's Market.

Technology is also a priority, and Expect More offered 11 mini-grants to teachers who attended a series of technology workshops this year. To be considered for the grants, teachers had to explain

the technology they were requesting, how they planned to use it, and how they would share that knowledge with other teachers. Jon Jones, a teacher at Red Bluff High School, received an iPad to allow him to use Educreations, a content creation and delivery tool.

"In addition to giving me access to a new technology platform to create content, the grant allowed me to explore the exploding area of 'app' based student content," said Jones. "And I use technology in a greater way to monitor student progress and perform common classroom management tasks."

Whether it's career exploration, developing leadership skills, applying new technology, promoting literacy or reminding residents that they have talents to share with youth, Expect More Tehama celebrates and champions hope in Tehama County. Understanding and fostering the value of learning, education and engagement is at the heart of that hope.



# EDUCATION UPDATE: TEHAMA COUNTY

*What's changed in Education in the last few years? Just about everything!*

In the bigger picture, we are operating on a new funding model called the Local Control Funding Formula, a new accountability model with the Local Control Accountability Plan, a new curriculum and assessments based on the Common Core State Standards.

Locally, we are working on building a new school based on a new model, four small school districts have consolidated with larger districts in our county, teacher recognition is alive and well, there's a new preschool on Lincoln Street, our community is coming together to solve the ongoing problems of truancy and behavior issues.

Here's a little more on each of these topics:

## **A new funding model: The Local Control Funding Formula**

In June 2013, Governor Brown signed a 2013-2014 state budget and new funding formula for school districts and county offices of education known as the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF). It represents a fundamental change in the way school districts, county offices, and charter schools are funded. Key elements in this formula are the demographics of a district's student population. The LCFF replaces most categorical programs, is more flexible and will be phased in over the next eight years.

## **A new accountability model: The Local Control Accountability Plan**

The Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) is an important component of the LCFF and will be required by local education agencies. It will serve as a tool to communicate the needs of students at a local level. The plan will describe how districts intend to meet annual goals for all pupils, with specific activities to address eight state and local priorities. The eight priorities include: student achievement, student engagement, parent involvement, other student outcomes, basic services, implementation of common core state standards, course access and school climate.

## **The Common Core State Standards**

With the introduction of Common Core Standards and a new assessment system, our schools will be able to concentrate on teaching the skills necessary for our students to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson commented on the new system, saying: "As valuable as STAR has been, we're getting ready to raise the bar in California's schools. This coming year, many students will have their first chance to try tests that measure their prepa-

ration for college and the world of work." These changes bring huge challenges for our educational system, but the fact is that our students continue to improve which is a remarkable thing and something we can celebrate.

## **A new school on Lincoln Street**

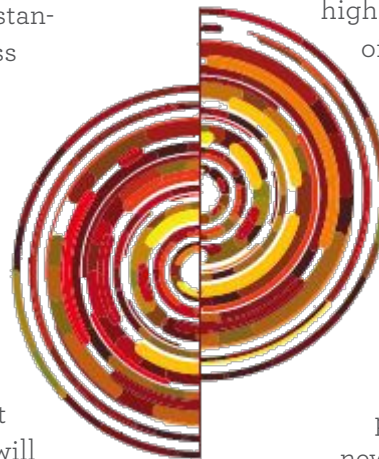
This year brought a new school and a new model for Lincoln Street School, which has been in operation since the 80's seeing nearly three decades of steady growth. The school has existed in several locations during that time, but has maintained continuous focus on strong academics, excellent support for families,

high expectations, a culture of commitments, and mutual respect. High standards which earned the school the honor of being recognized by the California Department of Education as an Exemplary Independent Study program in 2011. The

new facility, which was delivered today, will allow Lincoln Street School to continue to grow and educate students in ways that will prepare them for success in college and career.

## **District Consolidation**

Over the past few years the Tehama County Department of Education,



EDUCATION UPDATE:  
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# COLLEGE OPTIONS:

## *Hope for the next step*

*"In 2009, CollegeOptions did not serve Tehama County. So I drove to Redding to serve someone else's neighbors- all wonderful and deserving students. There is something about being a part of a community and the impact we can have when we work, play and serve in the place we live. Luckily, a group of people asked the question..."*

*What will it take to bring CollegeOPTIONS to Tehama County?*

*The answer was simple really, some money and support from the community. The support was growing, the desire by CollegeOPTIONS staff was heartfelt. It was just a matter of funding. Luckily with support from the Rolling Hills Casino Community Foundation and the Job Training Center, we were able to support one full time CollegeOPTIONS staff for the 2010-2011 school year. The dream to serve Tehama County students and to collaborate with our own community became a reality."*

*-Karissa Morehouse,  
CollegeOPTIONS Tehama County Director*

What a difference two years can make. In 2011, thanks to a partnership with CollegeOPTIONS, Tehama County Department of Education and five schools, a Department of Education Talent Search grant was awarded. This meant CollegeOPTIONS could fund a Director and an additional advisor to serve students. In 2012, the wonderful work that was happening in the county allowed CollegeOPTIONS to receive a federal GEAR UP grant which provided funding to hire two more staff, and in 2013, they were able to bring in a part time person to continue to support the growing need.

Today with a team of six CollegeOPTIONS staff, they are able to lend support to schools with college and career trainings; student workshops and advising; field trips to colleges and career exposure. In the time they have been here, they have seen A-G (college and career high school preparatory courses) become a positive term to talk about preparing high school students for their career pathway. Many freshmen students in the county are taking a Career Choices class to create a unique 10 year plan to move their goals beyond high school and towards a career. Families are learning more about financial aid and are completing the FAFSA at record rates. All of these successes are not because of CollegeOPTIONS but rather the collaborative work of schools, parents, businesses and community groups to raise the expectations of our children and the desire to see each student succeed.

CollegeOPTIONS is thankful to have the opportunity to serve the families and schools in their own community, and Expect More Tehama is forever grateful for their on the ground efforts. But they don't stop there. They dream of more pathways for students to earn their degrees; more summer opportunities for students to learn about future careers; assessments that inform parents and teachers how to tailor education to the needs of their students; homework help and tutors available throughout the county; a fully staffed CollegeOPTIONS Center to serve all families, including returning students and re-entry adults. Although they have come so far in the last four years, they keep dreaming because like us, they know the kids next door and know that they need more support than ever to reach their own career goals in such a competitive and ever changing economic environment.





## Safe Education and Recreation for Rural Families (SERRF) After School Program

In collaboration with Tehama County Department of Education, the SERRF After School Program is an official “No Excuses University” participant. Through this affiliation, they have established high expectations for student achievement and promote the importance of college and career readiness for all Tehama County students.

During their October, 2013, “Lights On”, the National Awareness Event for After School Programs, each school site represented their self-selected adopted college in creating college information boards, mock diplomas, mascots and pennants. In addition, they developed academic goals for themselves, alongside their parents, and participated in a college-like tail gate party complete with healthy snacks, graduation gown relays and a variety of other “college crazy” festivities!

SERRF’s UP ... Let’s “Ride the Wave to Higher Education”!

## EDUCATION UPDATE

*Continued from Page 16*

through a collaborative process, has lead four small school districts and two large districts through the district reorganization process. Bend Elementary School District joined with Evergreen Union Elementary in 2012 and after the first year, had the highest API in the county. Effective July 2013, Manton, Plum Valley and Mineral joined Antelope Elementary School District. This process was recently completed after the Board of Supervisors from Tehama County and Shasta County each met to approve the boundaries for the new district. Because Manton Elementary boundaries crossed the county lines, Shasta County was involved and in support of the efforts. Consolidation will provide financial and educational benefits for the Tehama County districts and their students, including: expansion of programs, services, and academic interventions; greater ability to absorb extreme fluctuations in enrollment; centralization of district office functions; and greater overall financial stability. From an educational point of view consolidation in Tehama County has already proved very successful and is resulting in greater learning opportunities for children.

### Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year award has evolved to become the cornerstone of teacher recognition in Tehama County. Teachers are chosen monthly throughout the year to receive Feature Teacher awards, which then feed into the nominations for Teacher of the Year. This annual award is presented by The

Tehama County Education Foundation and the Tehama County Department of Education to a teacher who has a superior ability to inspire the love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities. This year’s winner, Jennie Caylor, was recognized at the Farm City Night awards banquet and was honored with the Golden Apple Award and a \$500 check.

### A new preschool on Lincoln Street

Lincoln Street State Preschool opened on August 19th to excited three and four year old students. This new preschool sits on the campus of the Tehama County Department of Education. They are using the Doors to Discovery curriculum that is used throughout all 10 Tehama County State Preschools. The staff is highly experienced and have brought a new level of excitement to the campus. The outdoor space is newly designed and equipped with age appropriate equipment. Students and parents are very proud to be part of the first year of Lincoln Street State Preschool.

### Blue Ribbon Commission on Truancy and Discipline

Judge Matthew McGlynn will preside over the Tehama County Juvenile Court and be the lead of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Truancy and Discipline. Judge McGlynn will be bringing together representatives from the court, law enforcement, schools, child welfare, mental health, and county leadership to positively affect changes for our youth by sharing information and resources to have a greater impact on the goals created by the Blue Ribbon Commission.



# EXPECT MORE TEHAMA

## *Leadership Team*

Michelle Carlson

Kate Grissom

Melissa Mendonca

Scott Chandler

Kathy Garcia

Karissa Morehouse

Cynthia Cook

Amanda Wigno Harter

Tim Morehouse

Cliff Curry

Jewel Fryer

Karla Stroman

Amy Gonzeruk

Heidi Mendenhall

Nancy Veatch

*In an effort to expand the connections for folks “expecting more” county wide, and in keeping with the goals and intents of our grassroots movement, Expect More Tehama’s Leadership group will meet every month in a different area within the county to establish and deepen connections. Larger community meetings will be held each quarter, and anyone wishing to attend is invited to come and share their efforts and to hear about those of others in the county. Two large summits, an Expect More Tehama summit in the winter and a Tehama Reads summit in the Spring, bring together all county stakeholders to gather, learn and share, creating the synergistic, wide-spread energy needed to excite new efforts and sustain established ones.*

*To learn how you can be involved, visit [www.expectmoretehama.com](http://www.expectmoretehama.com)*

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## NORTEC YOUTH COUNCIL

Larry Champion

Jewel Fryer

Dave Hencraft

Trena Richards

Cliff Curry

Kathy Garcia

Shelley Macdonald

Karla Stroman

Wendy Drury

Amy Gonzeruk

Melissa Mendonca

Amanda Sharp

Alan Foley

Kate Grissom

Natalie Peterson

Sally Tollison

*The NoRTEC Tehama County Youth Council is a collaborative working group under the umbrella of Expect More Tehama that per the guidelines of the Workforce Invest Act, “challenges local communities to achieve a level of collaboration that brings together local workforce training providers, schools, community organizations, and others, in an effort to strategically align and leverage resources and to create community assistance strategies”.*

*Thank you for supporting education  
in Tehama County!*



“THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF  
HOPE  
FOR ANY COMMUNITY IS NOT DETERMINED BY  
demographics,  
ECONOMICS,  
or social diversity;  
BUT BY THE SHARED  
*passion*  
OF ITS MEMBERS FOR THE  
common good.

LOVE IS BOTH THE  
RESOURCE  
AND THE  
PRODUCT  
*of such hope.”*

STEVE IGARTA

