

.....FIFTH ANNUAL.....  
EXPECT MORE TEHAMA SUMMIT

# Sprouting Energies

100%  
PASSION  
FOR EDUCATION

CULTIVATED  
& REFINED IN  
TEHAMA COUNTY

2014 Annual Report



Expect More Tehama proudly celebrates its 5th Annual Fall Summit: Sprouting Energies. So much has taken place over the past six years, and yet the mission remains the same: What can we begin to do or put in place to raise expectations for our students for higher education and career readiness? What can we do now?

The first Summit simply asked the question, and we spent the day brainstorming possible answers and committing to action. Today, we continue to make strides, continually reenergized by the impact created when education and community partner to have a positive impact on our residents, from cradle to career.

## SPROUTING ENERGIES

There is never enough time at a Summit to showcase the programs, initiatives, grants, collaboration and stories taking place in this community, but we hope to use this report and several presentations to highlight a few. Like moving vines, we continue to see new networks and fresh energies applied to solving problems, addressing gaps, and initiating change. These efforts often take courage and leadership. What does leadership look like? Do you aspire to leadership or are you already there? We'll take a closer and more personal look at leadership as it applies to everyone in the room.

## INTERTWINING PATHS

Community and education have shared responsibility to our children of all ages. Our paths are not separate but intertwining. If this is true, how does the community come alongside education to help students develop? At this Summit, we'll look at the new Common Core standards. How do we all share in the work of developing critical thinkers and independent problem solvers? What can businesses do to manage, coach and develop young workers? What can we expect from young people? From ourselves?

## CELEBRATING GROWTH

As a community and movement, we are making a difference, but true growth must be measurable. What measures can be used to know what is working and what is needed? Six identified focus areas and corresponding indicators are helping create that tool. We'll share examples of work being done in each focus area and why each area is so important.

Thank you for sharing your individual gifts and talents. Thank you for asking the hard questions and being open to new perspectives. Thank you for making new connections and knowing that we're all working on making a difference together. Thank you for being here today.

# FOCUS AREA 1

## EVERY CHILD IS PREPARING TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL

### *Why is this important?*

#### *What does the research say?*

Both researchers and educators believe that school readiness must begin at birth.

There is overwhelming evidence that ALL children who experience quality school readiness programs at a young age are more successful in school. Longitudinal studies have demonstrated that investing in high-quality early learning programs generates future returns in the form of lower grade retention, decreased crime rates, and higher lifetime earnings.

In order to be ready for school, these children must also receive healthcare. Since low-income children have a higher incidence of health problems that interfere with learning, it is essential they have access to both medical and dental health insurance and exams.

In a recent California Department of Education's press release, "Stanford University research shows that by age two, low-income children are six months behind in language development compared to their higher-income peers. By age five, low-income children are more than two years behind in language development." Students who enter Kindergarten without the basic linguistic skills to be

prepared for school rarely catch up in subsequent years without intensive early intervention. Vocabulary development by age 3 has been found to predict reading achievement by third grade.

It is imperative that the children in our county are provided with an opportunity to participate in quality school readiness programs, receive health care, and participate in interactions that foster linguistic development.

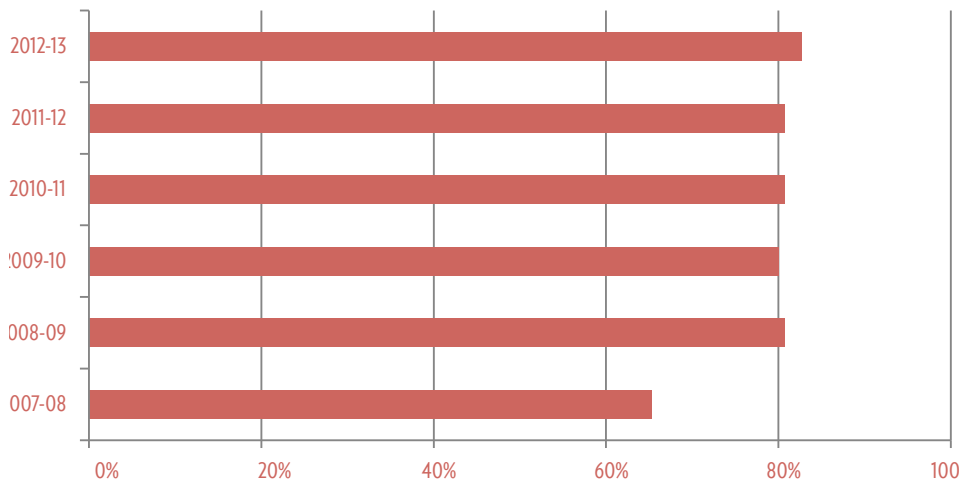
#### *What are our indicators?*

The EMT Framework focuses attention in this area and has selected several potential indicators to measure whether or not children are prepared to be successful in school. For this initial year, the focus will be on the data that is available. In subsequent years, it may be desirable to include more comprehensive data.

#### *How are we doing?*

In Tehama County, approximately 85% of the incoming kindergarteners reported having participated in Head Start, State Preschool or Private Preschool. (Note: We were unable to determine the length of time or quality of the experience from the data we are currently collecting.)

## PRESCHOOL PARTICIPATION BEFORE KINDERGARTEN







# MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES

Northern California Child Development, Inc. (NCCDI) is a non-profit organization serving Tehama County children and families since 1965. This organization specializes in early childhood education programs that promote school readiness and family engagement. The Early Head Start, Head Start, and State Preschool programs are designed to meet the specific needs of children and families. Early Head Start offers home based services to pregnant women and children 0-2 years and center based care for infants and toddlers of working and school bound parents and guardians. Head Start and State Preschool offer center based pre-school services for children ages 3-5 years old.

The Parent Engagement Services of NCCDI include different options for parents or guardians to acquire

knowledge and skills to build a solid family foundation that provides a nurturing home environment. A wide array of training opportunities is offered to help parents develop confidence that reinforces the parent's role as their child's first teacher. The goal is to support the parent/child relationship which is critical to a child's success in school. NCCDI views the collaborative relationship with parents as the key to successful parent engagement that results in a child ready for school.

The premier parent education event sponsored by NCCDI is the Parents' Choice Conference (PCC). During the fall of 2014, the 10th annual Tehama County event was held at the Red Bluff Community Center. According to Mike Lindsey, Parent Involvement and Fatherhood Coordinator, "The over-arch-

ing goal of this event is to prepare families for a successful transition to Kindergarten and beyond. Parents are provided a multitude of workshops to choose from, aimed at helping them strengthening their parenting skills and build their child's love for reading." NCCDI staff have a golden opportunity to work with young children and their parents to instill a passion for reading. The PCC is a perfect example of one way to meet the many family needs that influence a home environment where reading is part of the family routine. Conference workshops are always available in English and Spanish for parents who prefer information in their primary language. This no cost event, open to the community at large, allows parents to experience learning in a professional setting while making social connections with their peers and community partners.

## Award-winning Math Readiness

The WestEd Math Readiness Project won an *Investing in Innovation (i3) Validation Grant* from the U.S. Department of Education to study the effectiveness of using an innovative early math program on a statewide scale in California. All Tehama County State Preschools and some Northern California Child Development Inc. (NCCDI) sites, as well as local elementary school districts, have been participating in this Early Mathematics Intervention for High-Need Students Grant since the start of the 2013 school year. Tehama County schools are participating as part of the Rural North contingent of high need school districts across California and are facilitated by our own local professional development team of Lisa Sandberg, Teresa Manning and Beverly Grace.

This five-year, \$15 million study will examine whether schools can help socioeconomically disadvantaged children become ready to learn the challenging Common Core State Mathematics Standards by the end of kindergarten, and thus close math achievement gaps related to socioeconomic disparities. The study will also track the lasting impacts of an effective math

program to determine whether it results in later increases in overall school achievement.

According Prentice Starkey, Senior Project Director at West Ed and co-director of this study, "Recent research has shown that students' mathematical knowledge in kindergarten is the strongest predictor of general academic achievement in elementary school." Starkey adds, "The Common Core Math Standards are designed to accelerate math achievement by U.S. students. An initial challenge schools face is ensuring that the vast majority of younger students learn these higher standards at grade level—beginning in kindergarten. Our study is designed to help California schools give young students a strong start in math."

Approximately 37,800 students in public pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs statewide will receive a high high-quality math program from their teachers and parents over a two-year period. WestEd has partnered with the University of Oregon and a consortium of Lead Educational Agencies from California to serve students and their teachers. Children in both the study and control groups will be assessed on math

knowledge, reading, social skills, and self-regulation during pre-K, kindergarten, and grade 1. Researchers will also collect data on the classroom math practices of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten teachers to determine whether the study's professional development component positively impacts teacher practices and parental support at home for math.

In partnership with the California STEM Learning Network, regional training networks have been established in Northern and Southern California for the purpose of increasing training capacity in early math across the state. This training network is in the process of disseminating this innovative intervention and providing technical support in math. This support will continue over the 5-year period of this project.

The Tehama County Department of Education has supported the work of this project since its inception several years ago. They are proud to be able to help facilitate preschools and schools within Tehama County and those in Butte, Glenn, Shasta and Siskiyou Counties, as well.



# NO EXCUSES PRESCHOOL

The Tehama County Department of Education became the first “No Excuses” County Office of Education following a training from Damen Lopez in the fall of 2013. The Tehama County State Preschools then embedded the “No Excuses” model into their programs. The adoption of a “No Excuses” Preschool has continued to bring that concept to life every day for preschoolers in the dramatic play area and as students transition between activities. The goal is to encourage preschool students to begin to embrace the idea of college and career readiness.

In preschool every interaction, every activity, and every experience contributes to school readiness. As preschoolers “play” in the writing center, they are falling in love with a medium that will enable them to communicate their ideas, not only in school but in life. As children “play” in the block area, they are experimenting with physical science and mathematical reasoning, developing a conceptual understanding of these concepts which will help prepare them for college level mathematics or a future in STEM related careers. And while preschoolers “play” in their dramatic play area, they are practicing interactions that become a part of who they are. Research tells us that if preschoolers are familiar with an experience, it becomes a part of their social concept. As such, these preschool interactions, activities, and experiences are vital to a students’ development and setting of future goals.

In the Tehama County State Preschools, on any given day, you may walk into the “College Café”. At the “College Café” you see lists of college courses

that are available. There are pennants displayed to celebrate the most recent college sports’ victory. There are also healthy snacks on the menu to encourage preschoolers to power their brains through classes.

In addition to this infectious idea of college being represented in the environment, preschoolers have an opportunity to graduate from high school and college daily. As they walk from their snack to the meeting center, they “play” walk along a fictitious tight rope and ‘high five’ the teachers when they ‘graduate high school and move on to the road to college’ when they move from station to station. When they pass the college pennant along the way, they ‘high five’ their classmates and say, “I graduated from college.” This daily practice, that may look as simple children walking in a line to their next station, is providing the children with opportunities to think and talk about college.

Tehama County State preschool teachers understand the importance of family; families are a child’s first teacher. This is why the “No Excuses” message has been expanded to reach to the parents. The teachers have hung posters illuminating the importance of college in the perfect place for parent volunteers - the bathroom. And parents who volunteer in the classroom witness their children thinking and talking about college.

By embedding ‘college talk’ into school readiness activities, the state preschool teachers are setting the stage for Tehama County preschool children.



## Preschool Story Hour

Staff at the Tehama County Library treat every single Preschool Children’s Story Hour as a special event. By creating an environment where Story Hour is a special time to look forward to, children have begun to see reading as an exciting and social activity. “Each Story Hour includes stories, songs, puppets, crafts, movement and sometimes even a snack. It is a unique chance for us to get children excited about reading,” says librarian Sally Ainsworth. “These children eventually turn into adult patrons, and that is one of the most gratifying aspects of this program.”

Sally has been the children’s librarian at the Tehama County Library for over 20 years, and is passionate about weaving literacy, stories, creativity and fun into library activities for the children of Tehama County. The Library is committed to cultivating a love of reading in our community!

All preschool children are welcome at this fun and educational experience - they benefit from having adults read to them, watching other children engage with a story, and being exposed to a variety of authors and story genres. Story Hour also helps children learn critical school readiness skills which is a key to success as they move through school.

Preschool Story Hour runs throughout the school year; at the Corning Library on Mondays beginning at 10:00 a.m. and at the Red Bluff Library on Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. In addition to the time youngsters have to read and be social, parents and caregivers have a chance to visit and meet other parents while the children play and socialize.

# FOCUS AREA 2

## EVERY CHILD IN GRADES K-5 IS THRIVING AND DEMONSTRATING ACADEMIC COMPETENCY

### *Why is this important? What does the research say?*

The support that students receive both outside and inside of school is essential to a student's academic, social, and emotional well-being.

There are many factors that can influence a students' success and allow them to thrive, specifically non-cognitive competencies such as grit, self-control, organization, and tenacity. Students who have these skills tend to have fewer absences, positive engagement, and stronger academic success. In addition, students who have family/community supports, a positive adult role model, and a stable environment are better able to thrive both physically and academically.

There is significant research about the need for all children to be proficient readers by the end of third grade. According to Early Warning Confirmed, "Children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to leave school without a diploma than proficient readers." In addition, there is evidence that those students who are not able to meet proficiency levels at third grade become our nation's lowest-income, least-skilled, least-productive, and most costly citizens of tomorrow (National Assessment of Education Progress). Similarly, mathematics proficiency at fifth grade level is an indicator for future success.

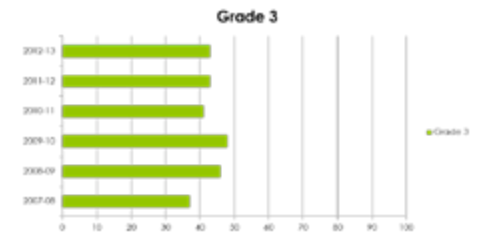
### *What are our indicators?*

The current indicators in this area rely heavily on academic assessment data collected from the 14 schools in our community.

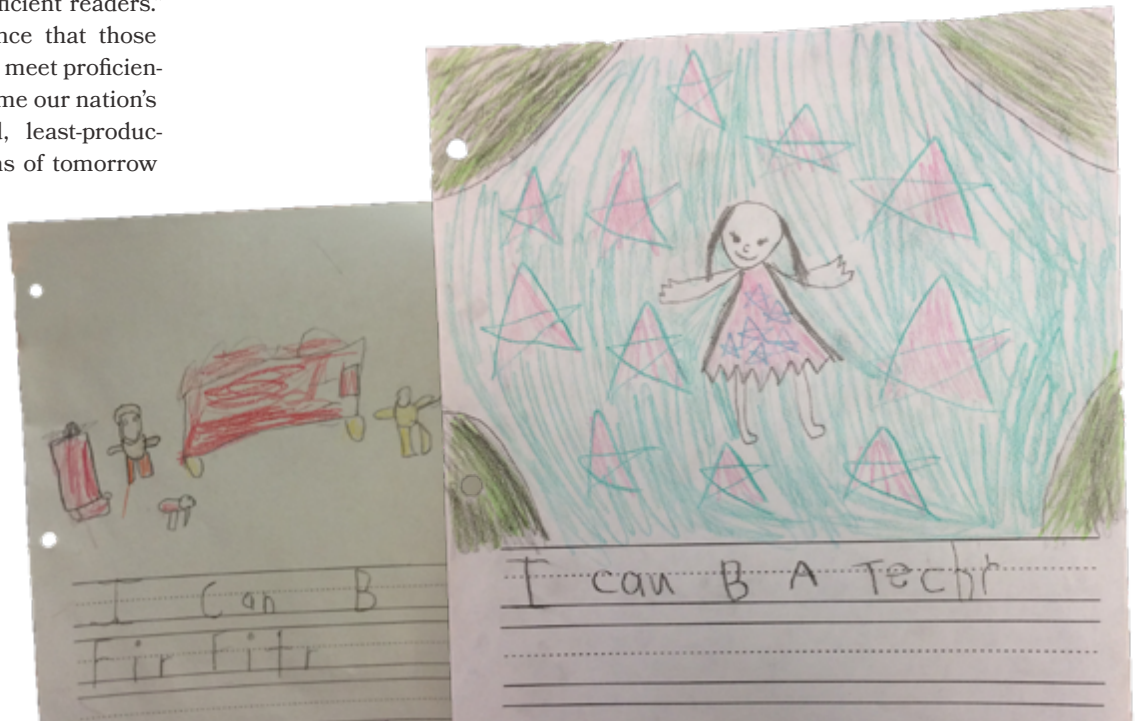
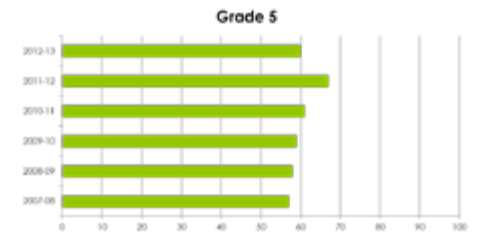
### *How are we doing?*

English Language Arts and Mathematics data has been collected for all schools over the past several years as part of the California Standards Test. In third grade, there have been between 37 and 48 percent of students who scored proficient or advanced on the English Language Arts assessment. In fifth grade, there have been between 58 and 67 percent of students who scored proficient or advanced on the Mathematics assessment. These numbers have maintained consistency over the past five years and indicate that students across the county are not significantly increasing their literacy or mathematics skills in these two grade levels.

### **3rd Grade Reading Proficiency % of students Proficient & Above**



### **5th Grade Reading Proficiency % of students Proficient & Above**





# A Grand Slam for Literacy

The Junior Giants program seeks to empower more than 21,000 underserved youth, boys and girls, ages 5-18, in more than 200 cities throughout California, Oregon, and Nevada through a free, noncompetitive summer baseball program. With the support of the Tehama County Police Activities League (P.A.L.) and the Giants Community Fund we are fortunate enough to have four Junior Giants programs within Tehama County located in Corning, Los Molinos, Rancho Tehama, and Red Bluff.

The Junior Giants program is so much more than baseball. The program uses the game of baseball as a vehicle to promote the Four Bases of Character Development by teaching Confidence, Integrity, Leadership, and Teamwork. Along with prioritizing character development, the Junior Giants program also promotes the importance of nutrition, bullying prevention, and most importantly, a literacy component called the Round the Bases Reading Program.

Education is a crucial part of the mission and vision of the Junior Giants Program and a top priority for the Giants Community Fund, its commissioners, and coaches. The Round the Bases Reading Program is an incentive based reading program that every child is encouraged to participate in for the duration of the season. The Junior Giants reading program establishes different reading levels and prizes which are as follows:

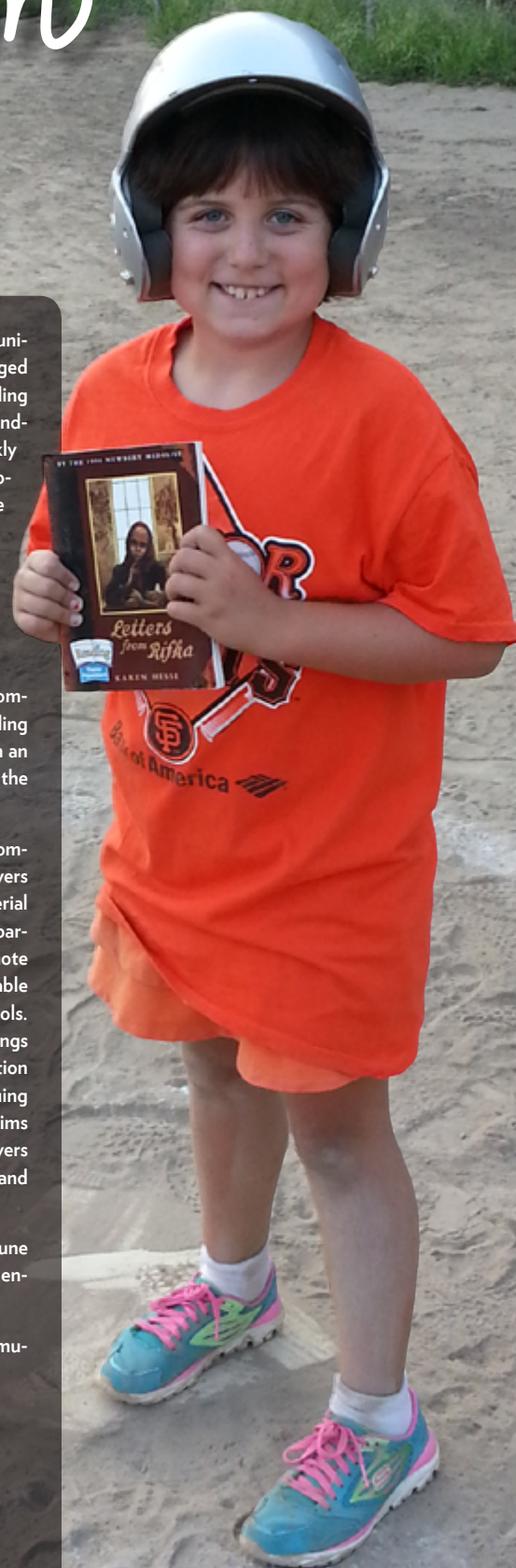
- 1st base is reached when the players read their Player Handbooks. They receive a Giants ruler.
- 2nd base is reached by reading for 240 minutes. They receive a Giants folder.
- 3rd base is reached by reading 480 minutes. They receive a Giants notebook.
- Home Run level is reached by reading 720 minutes. They receive a Giants binder.
- If the entire team reaches the Home Run level, they are rewarded with an invitation to the Junior Giants festival at AT&T Park where they get to play on the field and participate in multiple activities throughout the day.

Through a lot of support and multiple opportunities, our Tehama County players are encouraged to track their reading activity on their reading logs which are included in their player handbooks. They turn in these reading logs weekly and the coaches/reading coordinator distributes the prizes. Some programs are fortunate enough to have local literacy coordinators or county librarians to help implement and coordinate the reading program. Along with the commissioners, they ensure each player has the resources and encouragement to try and achieve each level. Most Junior Giants programs have someone to help the commissioners and coaches implement the reading component of the program because it is such an essential component to the overall success of the players and the vision of the program.

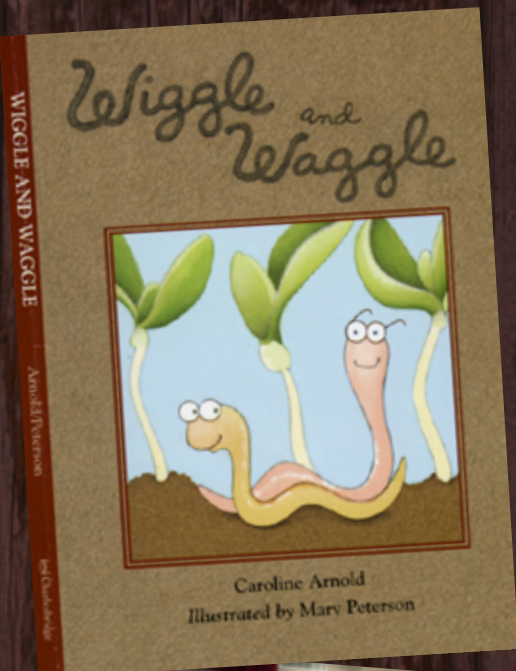
Some programs have parents, coaches, or community members that donate books so the players who may not have access to reading material never go without and have no reason not to participate. Additionally, Junior Giants promote the summer reading programs that are available at the local libraries and elementary schools. The program also encourages older siblings to read to their younger siblings. In addition to learning outside of school and continuing literacy through the summer, this program aims to promote literacy among Junior Giants players and strengthen the bonds between parents and children through their active participation.

The program runs from the middle of June through the middle of August and signups generally occur after April of each year.

[http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/sf/community/gcf/junior\\_giants.jsp](http://sanfrancisco.giants.mlb.com/sf/community/gcf/junior_giants.jsp)







# Tales from the Heart



The historic State Theatre in downtown Red Bluff was the setting for the May 2014 'Tehama County Author Visit' sponsored by the Tehama County Department of Education and the Tehama County Reading Council/Tehama Reads.

Each day, May 20th and 21st, there were two separate presentations provided for students. Kindergarten through 3rd grade students came in the morning and 4th through 8th grade students came in the afternoon to hear author, illustrator, and teacher, Caroline Arnold, discuss her passion for teaching, art, and writing. The focus of her presentation was to encourage students to read more and promote them becoming more creative in their own ways. Students from Bidwell, Metteer, Reeds Creek, Jackson Heights, Lassen View, Lincoln Street, Mineral, Manton, and Plum Valley attended. In all, there were 2,100 students who were able to hear Caroline present over the two day period.

Caroline spent time discussing just some of her 150 books, most of which are nonfiction. She described how her love of nature and travel are infused into her books. Students in the audience were enthusiastic and appreciative of the time spent with her. According to one student, "The author really made me want to go home and start writing my stories down so that I can maybe be an author one day." Mrs. Arnold's books were available for students to purchase at the end of the presentation, and she spent time with each student, autographing their book for them.







Have you ever sat down with your student to go over their homework and not been sure of the answer yourself?

Does your student need a tutor but you have not been able to find one or been able to afford the extra cost? Did you just start back at school and could use some help in your own classes? Tehama County now has a FREE online tutoring resource called *Brainfuse* to take care of your family's personalized learning needs. *Brainfuse* is one of the nation's leading online tutoring providers, serving libraries, school districts and colleges/universities. All you need is a library card and internet access to take advantage of this amazing resource. *Brainfuse* offers a personalized, state standards aligned live homework help in core subjects (math, reading, writing, science and social studies) including Advanced Placement (AP), a Foreign Language Lab, and ACT/SAT test preparation. *Brainfuse* also provides tools like flashcards,

educational puzzles, and fun games to help your student study. Whether you or

your student need a quick question answered, need help understanding a new concept, or are looking to build skills, you now have a free resource tailored to you and your family.

*Brainfuse* is available now on the library's public computers or from any computer with internet connection through the Tehama County Library website at [www.tehamacountylibrary.org](http://www.tehamacountylibrary.org). Click on the *Brainfuse* logo and enter your library card number to access a highly trained tutor from 1 pm to 10 pm daily. All other *Brainfuse* programs are available 24/7 for your convenience.

The *Brainfuse* program in Tehama County has been made possible by the Tehama County Library, Tehama County Friends of the Library, Tehama County Department of Education and College OPTIONS.

*"As the parent it was wonderful to see that my second grader could get help when the directions are not clear on the homework. Also when as a parent I have not been trained in this new common core math."*



This year's theme is "SERRF: Making a World of Difference!" The students, staff and families of the SERRF Afterschool Program have been introduced to the challenge of making the world a better place by practicing intentional acts of kindness and compassion. Through "Rachel's Challenge," we are guiding students to:

- Look for the best in others
- Dream, set goals, keep a journal
- Choose positive influences
- Speak with kindness
- Start a chain reaction of kindness

Everyone is encouraged to support "Rachel's Challenge" by being a part of a positive cultural change by practicing daily acts of kindness and compassion. We firmly believe we can truly "Make a WORLD of Difference" one act of kindness at a time!

Additionally, in collaboration with Tehama County Department of Education, we have maintained our status as an official "No Excuses University" (NEU) participant. Through this affiliation and with school-based support, we have established high expectations for student achievement and promote the importance of college and career readiness for all of our Tehama County youth. In partnering with the Red Bluff Kiwanis organization the students participate in the Bringing Up Grades ("BUG") Program, receiving certificates, pencils and other incentives for their academic accomplishments. Top achieving students receive a special invitation to attend a monthly Kiwanis club meeting, where they are honored for their successes in the classroom. Other SERRF NEU activities implemented include: adopting a college to represent and establish communication with; awareness of college vocabulary/terminology; college-career based curriculum with guest speakers; and goal setting that includes a college and/or career pathway. The end of our year is topped off with an attendance reward field trip that encompasses a college campus visit, complete with a fun-filled, enticing tour!

The SERRF After School Program is sincerely committed to "Making a World of Difference!"

[www.tehamaschools.org/departmentserrf](http://www.tehamaschools.org/departmentserrf).





# STORIES ON WHEELS

What would you do if visiting the local library in the summer wasn't an option for you?

In some remote areas of Tehama County, this is the case. As such, the Bookmobile, sponsored by the Tehama County Department of Education and the Tehama County Reading Council/ Tehama Reads, makes trips to these areas so that students can experience story hour and have access to books they can take home to read. Many times the story of the day focuses on a social science or science concept that allow students to build both content knowledge and literacy skills while they enjoy fluent reading being modeled for them. Students are then able to select up to three books to take home with them to read until the Bookmobile visits again. These books are not checked out to students, instead they become theirs. Tehama Reads collects gently used books throughout the year that are used for this redistribution purpose.

The Bookmobile has been running in Tehama County since the summer of 2012. It serves students in Gerber as well as those at local mobile home parks such as O'Nite and Friendly Acres. Summer reading loss can account for nearly 80% of the reading achievement gap of elementary age students who do not have access to reading experiences or texts. (Alexander, Entwisle, Olson, 2007) As such, summer reading loss cannot be ignored.

According to Nancy Veatch, ELA Coordinator at the Tehama County Department of Education, "This program helps to serve a group of students who may otherwise not have such rich literacy opportunities provided to them during the summer. It is so rewarding to be able to let these young children pick out books that they are interested in reading and then come back a few weeks later to hear what they learned about."



# FOCUS AREA 3

EVERY 6TH -8TH GRADER IS THRIVING, DEMONSTRATING  
ACADEMIC COMPETENCY, AND GAINING AWARENESS  
OF COLLEGE AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

## *Why is this important?*

### *What does the research say?*

A student's success in middle school is critical to their future. All of our local school districts are committed to helping students achieve their greatest potential. There is the understanding that students must be exposed to high standards and be challenged academically. They must also have exposure to college and career options at this point in their academic career.

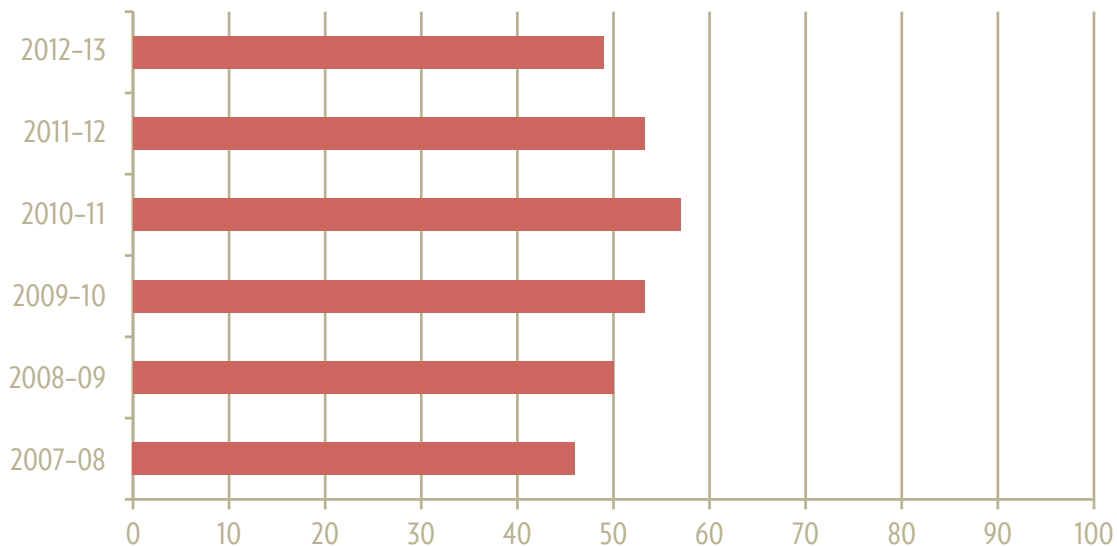
## *What are our indicators?*

The current indicators in this focus area rely heavily upon academic measures obtained from our local 14 school districts. In addition, we look to our local schools to share information with us about how many students are participating in programs and events that expose them to college and career options.

## *How are we doing?*

As part of the California Standards Test, English Language Arts data has been collected for the county's middle school students. In 8th grade, a range of 46 to 57 percent of our students have demonstrated a proficient level in literacy skills over the past five years.

## 8TH GRADE READING PROFICIENCY % OF STUDENTS PROFICIENT & ABOVE



**In addition, programs and events have been put in place to support career and college. The following are planned for 2014-2015:**

- GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Preparation)
- Educational Talent Search Program
- Upward Bound
- SERRF
- Mi Futuro through Wal Mart Distribution Program
- Friday Night Live
- Mentoring Program
- 8th Grade Leadership Events
- 8th Grade Field Trip to Chico State

# Empowerment in the great outdoors

Girls Incorporated of the Northern Sacramento Valley, founded in 2006, is an affiliate of Girls Incorporated, which serves girls across the United States and Canada. With roots dating back to 1864, Girls Incorporated is the oldest girl-focused organization in the United States.

Girls Incorporated of the Northern Sacramento Valley is all about empowering local girls. The program serves girls, ages 6 to 18, from Shasta and Tehama Counties by offering a wide range of in-school, after-school and extracurricular programs. These research-based programs build girls' self-esteem, transform their views of themselves, and help them recognize their potential as leaders, friends, innovators and independent thinkers. Girls Inc.'s mission is to inspire girls to be "strong, smart, and bold."

Girls Incorporated of the Northern Sacramento Valley was very excited this year to offer a summer program for the first time for middle school girls. It highlighted condensed versions of three Girls Inc. programs: Media Literacy, Leadership & Community Action and Sporting Chance. They were offered at the Anderson

Teen Center and the Tehama County Office of Education. There were 15 girls enrolled!

In the Media Literacy portion, the girls learned how to analyze what they see and hear in the media, they created images that were more realistic and reflective of their lives, and learned that it is great to be a girl!

In the Leadership and Community Action portion, they learned about natural leaders, what "community" means (school, neighborhood, city), mapped their city, and shared where they feel safe in their communities. They also learned that they have the power to change what they don't like by writing letters to their city or government officials and the media.

The last day consisted of Sporting Chance. They got active by learning everyday exercises and stretches and then learned how to read their

city's maps and a topographical map of Lassen Volcanic National Park. They also learned how to be active but safe in nature by keeping hydrated, wearing proper clothing and such.



The Summer Program concluded with a 3 day, 2 night camping trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park, thanks to the grant received from the Lassen Park Foundation. Most of the girls were first time campers. The girls and facilitators were led by Youth Ranger Michael. They learned how to set up a campsite, played games, hiked Bumpass Hell, did a compass course, learned

about and simulated erupting volcanoes, were invited to observe a Pit River Tribe celebration, and even made time for s'mores!

The girls had a fabulous time and were all truly grateful to have this outdoor experience!

[www.girlsincnsv.org](http://www.girlsincnsv.org)







# LEADING THE WAY

January of a student's eighth grade year is the perfect time to have them further explore the options that will be available to them in high school and beyond. By mid-March, most of these students are meeting with their high school counselors to select their freshman year classes and extracurricular activities. As such, the 8th Grade Leadership Day could not have been a more perfectly timed event. All 8th grade students were invited to attend a motivational leadership day sponsored by Expect More Tehama, College OPTIONS, and the Tehama County Department of Education. A total of 490 students from 11 different middle schools attended the event hosted at Carlin's Event Center in Corning over a five day period. High school students noted as leaders on their campuses from Mercy, Red Bluff and Los Molinos attended the days and provided support for the activity stations.

The mission of 8th Grade Leadership Day is to build the mindset in all 8th grade Tehama County students that they are the leaders of their own destiny and to make them aware of the possibilities they may pursue beyond high school. According to Karissa More-

house, Tehama County College OPTIONS Director, "The activities which students engaged in encouraged them to understand how the decisions they are making today affect the opportunities they will have in their futures."

*I want to change  
people's lives with  
writing - Dalton J.*

Students progressed through several different activities throughout the day. They learned about the A-G courses they must take in high school to prepare themselves for college. They experienced a hands-on workshop and walked away with a key chain representing the classes they must take in order to be college ready and able to seize the opportunities life has to offer. Students also took the True Colors personality assessment using a card sort process to determine their personality "color". They worked in teams to discuss their strengths and leadership attributes. This activity encourages students

to stay true to themselves in high school and to always remember how each of them is unique and smart in their own way. Another activity was designed to provide students with an opportunity to consider building their own life and not just living it. They rolled dice to determine the outcome of their future career and life.

After leaving fate up to chance, they then went back over their choices to select their own fate based upon their choice. Students learned how important the decisions they are making now and in high school are in determining the opportunities they have available to them upon graduation. Travis, a student at Evergreen Middle School, noted, "It was interesting to see what my life would be like if I left it up to chance, but taking matters into my own hands led me to better results. I want to be in the military and become an underwater welder."

The day winded down with the students solidifying their goals and writing them on a chalk board for their fellow students, teachers and school to see. These chalkboards are on display at all participating schools around the county.



# 50 STATE C COLLEGE T-SH



"The t-shirts are symbolic of our effort around college and career as we implement the Common Core standards," says Tehama County Superintendent, Larry Champion. His office, which includes Executive Assistant Carol Stephens, has been a long-time supporter of the College Logo t-shirt project. Champion says that he and his wife, Susie, have integrated

collecting t-shirts into their travels. "Whenever we're visiting a community, we become aware of the state and local universities. We happened upon an Arizona shirt, so we brought one back." Take a look at the Department of Education's logo: All About Learning: Students ~ Schools ~Districts~ Community. The College Logo T-shirt Project integrates them all in a fun and creative way!



Shelley Macdonald signed on early to support the College Logo T-shirt Project and has brought in shirts every year. It all started when her daughter Jessica, now a sophomore nursing student at University of Nevada, Reno, was getting ready to start as a freshman at Red Bluff High. "I'm a pretty involved parent," says the Tehama County Education Foundation board member, "and I was clueless about college." Expect More Tehama was emerging as a community movement back then and Shelley jumped right in, learning as she went along to not only support her daughter, but all Tehama County youth. Now, picking up t-shirts for the project is just second nature when she is out traveling. "We were in Washington for baseball this summer and

there was all sorts of Gonzaga stuff, so we snatched those up," she says. Over the years, Shelley has brought in shirts from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fresno State, University of Nevada, and numerous other schools. It's safe to say, however, that her favorite is the one she wears when she's not in the office at Golden State Farm Credit. It identifies her as a proud mom of a University of Nevada, Reno student.

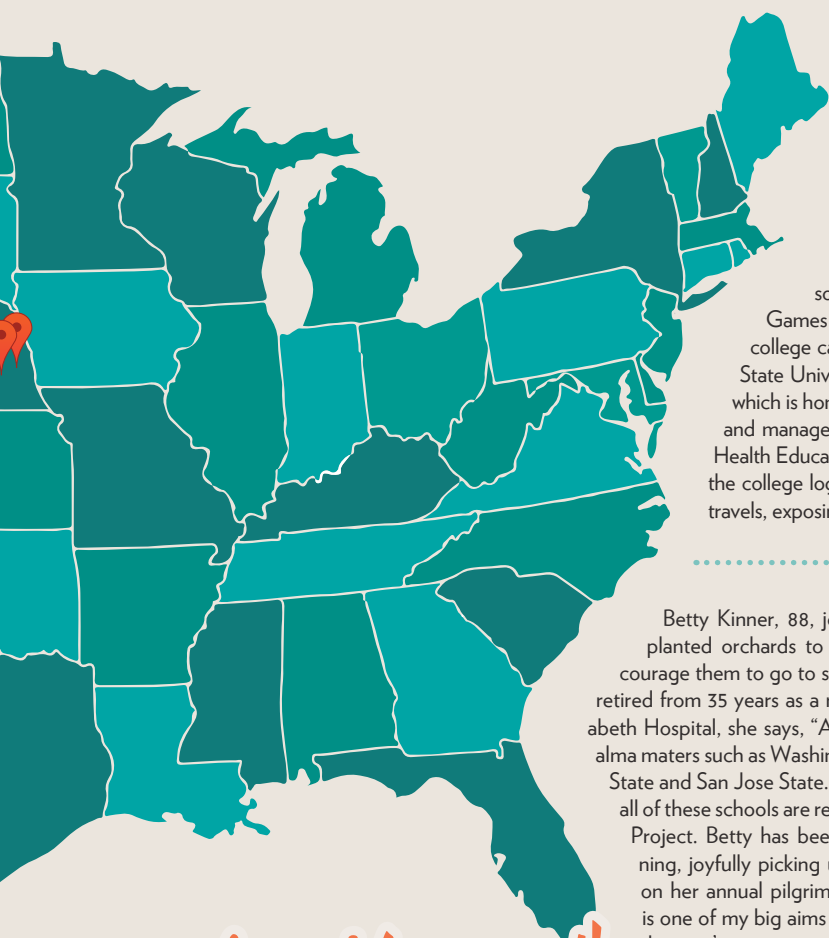


Connie Holland, Dean of Students at Vista Preparatory Academy, has written over 400 letters to colleges across the United States because, she says, "I want to make sure that our students at Vista have the same opportunities as other students across the U.S." For her, that means making sure they know all the options available to them for higher education. "Sometimes I don't think our students know that there are all of these opportunities out there," she says. Researching the schools to request t-shirts has taught her a thing or two, as well. "I was shocked to see how many there are," she says. Connie is a true champion for the College Logo T-shirt Project. She has received over 160 donations from 39 states on behalf of Vista Prep. The 8th grade students will receive their shirts in January 2015, just before the 8th Grade Leadership Day. We appreciate Connie's dedication to the College Logo T-shirt project and the success of her students!



# CHALLENGE

# T-SHIRT PROJECT



In October 2014, Jake and Mary Jacobson combined t-shirt collection with their vacation through Nevada and southern Utah in a rented RV. They visited Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks and participated in the Huntsman World Senior Games, a sports festival that is somewhat of an Olympic



Games for people age 50 and older. While on their road trip, they enjoyed visiting the college campuses and acquiring shirts at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas and at Dixie State University. Dixie State is located in southern Utah's "Dixie" region in St. George, Utah which is home to the Huntsman World Senior Games. Jake works for The Nature Conservancy and manages the Lassen Foothills Conservation Project in eastern Tehama County. Mary is a Health Educator for the Tehama County Health Services Agency. Both have enjoyed supporting the college logo t-shirt project and say that the quest to find shirts added a fun element to their travels, exposing them to places that they wouldn't have otherwise thought to visit.

Betty Kinner, 88, jokes that she and her husband, Don, planted orchards to keep their children busy and "to encourage them to go to school instead of picking prunes." Now retired from 35 years as a registered nurse at Red Bluff's St. Elizabeth Hospital, she says, "And it worked!" Her family now boasts alma maters such as Washington University, Oregon State, Chico State and San Jose State. And it's been Betty's joy to make sure all of these schools are represented in the College Logo T-Shirt Project. Betty has been a donor from the program's beginning, joyfully picking up t-shirts at the University of Alaska on her annual pilgrimages to visit family there. "Education is one of my big aims for all kids," she says. "I think it's great that you're encouraging 8th graders to think about college."



## Join the Movement!

The College Logo T-shirt project is meant to put a new spin on the "psychology of a t-shirt". Instead of showing "where I've been", 8th graders throughout Tehama County will focus on "where I can go." There are endless possibilities for each young person to find the right program of higher learning. New college logo t-shirts can be dropped off at either the Tehama County Department of Education or the Job Training Center in Red Bluff.

It is the goal of the program to get a new, college logo t-shirt into the hands of every 8th grade student in the county. That's almost 800 students! T-shirts are distributed throughout the year at school rallies. Recipients are encouraged to research the school on their shirt. The 50 State Challenge is being implemented to add a geography lesson to the experience and to further broaden the horizons of our students. T-shirts are collected year-round.

Make sure your favorite schools are represented! All sizes are accepted; greatest need is medium.  
[tehamaschools.org/tshirtproject](http://tehamaschools.org/tshirtproject)



# PASSION FOR LASSEN

For the past 20 years, the Lassen Park Foundation has offered small grants to non-profit organizations and schools for at-risk and underserved youth (ages 6–18 years) to experience the joy of camping in Lassen Volcanic National Park. These camping experiences have a profound effect on our youth. They connect to nature, see a true night sky, and reach goals they never thought were possible. The experiences go on and on.

At the end of October 2014, the youth camping program hosted over 400 youth campers, representing 25 youth groups. Campers ranged from ages six to eighteen and each group's trip was specially tailored to meet their needs and goals.

This year's Youth Camping program saw participation from a variety of youth organizations. Some groups were new participants in the program but many groups were returning for the second or third consecutive year. Park staff worked closely with group leaders to tailor programs to

each group's mission and goals to best serve the needs of our youth campers. Group demographics included: low-income, inner-city and rural communities, community service groups, at-risk youth, and special needs participants challenged with a variety of cognitive and emotional disabilities. Some participating organizations from Tehama County included:

- *Jackson Heights School*
- *Tehama Wilderness Team*
- *Girls Inc.*
- *Tehama County Mentoring Program*

## Some of the programs offered were:

**Compass Courses:** Campers learned the skills of orienteering and then put their new knowledge to the test on an interpretive compass course.

**Wildlife Neighborhood:** During this popular youth camp program, campers were taken on an interpretive hike around Manzanita Lake near the youth campground.

**Being Present:** Being Present asked campers to find secluded areas in which to take a few minutes to use all of their senses to find new things they had originally overlooked.

**Backpacking in the Wilderness:** For the first time we had an all-girl backpacking trip. On July 11, 2014, five young women headed out on a ranger-led backpacking trip through Lassen Volcanic National Park Wilderness. Ranging in age from 14 to 16 years old, each girl submitted an application to attend the three-day backpacking trip. Four of the five girls from Red Bluff and Mineral experienced backpacking for the first time on this 15.6 mile trip.

Anonymous feedback surveys, anecdotal evidence, and camper interviews were used to assess the 2014 program's effectiveness at impacting the lives of its participants. Current findings indicate that the program continues the previous years' trend of making strong, multifaceted impacts on the lives of both the youth and adult

campers. For many youth, the trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park was their first experience of visiting a National Park. In some cases it was even their first trip outside of their home city. Camping brings many youth outside of their comfort zones during which time the stress of adapting to a different lifestyle fosters new supportive relationships within the group. Youth campers consistently shared the sentiment that during their camping trip, they grew closer to both their peers as well as their adult group leaders.

Due to the success of the Youth Camping Program the Lassen Park Foundation is partnering with the Lassen Volcanic National Park to build a permanent Youth Camp, the "Volcano Adventure Camp". The added amenities will allow for a longer camping season and remove some barriers for other groups to be able to participate. The planned opening is June 2016.

<http://lassenparkfoundation.org/>  
<http://www.apexweb.com/wildernessteam/>



# THE SCIENCE OF WATER

Twenty-nine incoming 9th grade high students participated in a week long camp at the Shasta College Tehama Campus, June 23rd through the 27th, to receive a hands-on education in water science and drought. The goal of the program was to expose students to science careers and build their academic and teamwork skills to be successful in high school. During the week students were able to learn about careers and degrees related to geology, hydrology, recreation management, watershed management and chemistry; opening up an entire world of opportunities. The students were split into working groups and throughout the week learned about our current water conditions. With this information each team had to create a public awareness campaign related to a water topic of their choosing. Public awareness campaign topics included: State-Wide Water Conservation, Irrigation, Preventing Oil Spills to Help Keep Marine Life Clean, Drought Awareness, Water Conservation for Home Owners, and Water Conservation for Schools.

Along with developing the public awareness campaign, the week included a field trip to Whiskeytown Lake and Shasta Dam, daily science experiments, water Olympic games, and guest speakers which included a wastewater treatment expert, an environmental education and watershed expert, and irrigation systems specialists. A team from Washington State University taught the students to use computer assisted programs using iPad's and various



applications in their public awareness campaign. Students learned how to embed images and information into their posters to engage their audience. The students displayed their knowledge gained throughout the week at a celebration event with their families, school administrators, and community members.

When asked if the camp influenced their college and career goals, Caleb Delong, a student participant, said, "Yes, this week has encouraged me to go pursue a career in science." Another student, Ariana Serrano, said that her favorite part of the experiments was "Working with my teammates!"

The day camp was coordinated by the College OPTIONS GEAR UP program, which helps students prepare to enter and succeed in college. The program would not have been possible without the partnerships of the Shasta College Tehama Campus, Maywood Middle School, Vista Preparatory Academy, Tehama County Department of Education, Tehama County Resource Conservation District, Expect More Tehama, and the Job Training Center.



## PIQing Advocacy in Parents

The Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE) has been hard at work teaching parents in Tehama County how to be an advocate for their children throughout their time in school. The mission of the program is to connect families, school and community as partners to advance the education of every child through parent engagement.

PIQE emphasizes the importance of a college education and empowers parents to create a plan that will guide their students' success. The free nine-week class covers many topics including: how to create a positive and lasting educational environment at home using a number of proven academic success tools; dedicating a home study location and time of day for homework; creating ongoing dialogue with their kids surrounding their academic successes and challenges; and discussing children's college expectations. Also discussed are the A-G curriculum, importance of GPA, college entrance exams, and financial aid. Parents that complete the required coursework graduate from the program and receive a diploma and a conditional acceptance certificate for their children to later attend the California State University System.

PIQE is available at several schools in the county as a result of a long-term partnership with California GEAR UP. These schools include: Berrendos Middle School, Richfield Elementary School and Vista Preparatory Academy. Other schools participating in PIQE are Jackson Heights Elementary School, Los Molinos High School and Red Bluff High School.

[www.piqe.org](http://www.piqe.org)



# STEM CAMP

## STEPPING UP TO A BRAVE NEW WORLD

Ten years ago Facebook didn't exist. Ten years ago only a rare high school student chose to pursue a career in robotics. Welcome to a new age, where science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workers drive our nation's innovation and competitiveness by generating new ideas, new companies and new industries. In 2010, there were 7.6 million STEM workers in the United States, representing about 1 in 18 workers. More than 55% of job postings, from the first quarter of 2013, required STEM skills. Yet, forty percent of elementary educators in California's public schools say they have spent an hour or less teaching science each week over the past ten years because of the student accountability emphasis on English Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency. Science, technology, engineering and math go hand in hand, so not only did students often lose out on science but also in some of these connected subjects. How are we to step forward and begin preparing our student's for this new kind of future?

On August 6-7, 2014, teachers and consultants from Red Bluff High School and Tehama County Department of Education began addressing this question by taking a learning journey with local area seventh through ninth graders. The excursion involved a two day

STEM camp at the Red Bluff High School campus. Students arrived each morning to a half day of creating, building and problem solving. They engaged in building Play-doh parallel and series circuits, investigating the digestive system, calculating bungee cord length to prevent disaster, and determining catapult angles and distances.

"It was amazing to capture their curiosity at this time in their lives because they are sponges at this point," said Lorna Manuel, Director of Educational Services at Tehama County Department of Education.

The STEM Summer Camp made science and technology fun, captured the student's interest and connected them to other students they had not previously met. The staff was empowered when they experienced the students being creators, instead of consumers.

"I can't wait to come back next year to discover new science and to design new creations," an eighth grade camper commented.

The STEM camp was just the first in many steps...starting with providing students STEM awareness and moving towards future camps where they will engage in engineering design that uses their current interests and skills. We are on our way toward priming students for this BRAVE NEW WORLD of STEM.

## Celebrating Creative Writing

*"Reading and writing, like everything else, improve with practice. And, of course, if there are no young readers and writers, there will shortly be no older ones."*

*Literacy will be dead, and democracy - which many believe goes hand in hand with it - will be dead as well."*

Margaret Atwood

The Tehama County Writing Celebration is an annual event held to provide an opportunity for young writers, Kindergarten through 8th grade, to create a piece of writing to be showcased. Students in this year's writing contest had the option to create a narrative, informational, or opinion/argumentative piece to submit. There were 178 student entries this May.

Student writing from Kindergarten through 2nd grade students was not scored, but rather "golden lines" from it were selected to be highlighted at the Celebration. 3rd through 8th grade student writing was scored and reviewed for "golden lines". The Tehama County Reading Council/Tehama Reads reviewed all submissions in the spirit of celebrating young authors in our county.

A Kindergartener wrote, "My mom likes chocolate and cranberry sauce. And she likes me the most in the whole family." A second grader stated, "When I grow up I want to be a firefighter. I think being a firefighter would be a great job for me because I know firefighters help protect our forest." A fourth grader crafted, "My teacher's dancing pencil makes us write a theme, but when it's really funny, I always see him gleam."

All students who participated were invited to attend a Writing Celebration at the Red Bluff State Theatre on May 22nd. They first heard a presentation by visiting author Caroline Arnold. Following her book talk, students were recognized in grade level groups on the stage. All students received a certificate, and students who had "golden lines" read theirs aloud to the entire theatre. Playing on the screen at the State Theatre was a Power Point showcasing all of the "golden lines". The Writing Celebration event ended with a raffle for books written by the guest author.



# FOCUS AREA 4

EVERY STUDENT IS ENGAGED IN GAINING SKILLS NECESSARY  
FOR COLLEGE OR A CAREER BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL

## *Why is this important?*

### *What does the research say?*

“By 2018, we will need 22 million new workers with college degrees-but will fall short of that number by at least 3 million postsecondary degrees” (Georgetown University). Many of these students will not complete programs as a direct result of lacking the skills necessary they need to succeed in educational attainment or career training. Therefore, all students need to graduate from high school with these skills (literacy, mathematics, and critical thinking).

### *What are our indicators?*

In order to graduate from high school, students must pass the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) which they take for the first time in their sophomore year. All students must also complete the credit requirement in order to graduate. Determining how many of our students complete high school with either a diploma, GED, or special education certificate of completion is an important measure of success. Of those students who graduate, we can measure the number of students who have completed the college preparatory coursework (A-G requirements).

Another indicator for college and career preparation is the number of students who are deemed “Ready” for college level English and Math according to the Early Assessment Program (EAP), given to students at the end of their junior year. The EAP assesses students to be “Ready”, “Conditionally Ready” or “Not Yet Ready” to begin coursework at the college level with no need for remediation. Students who are “Conditionally Ready” can take a class their senior year which will change their status to “Ready”, once passed with a ‘C’ or better.

The College Entrance Tests (ACT and SAT) and our students’ scores in comparison to national and state benchmarks also give us an indicator of students being ready for the next step. Research shows that the ACT, when combined with high school grade-point average, is an excellent predictor of first-year college success.

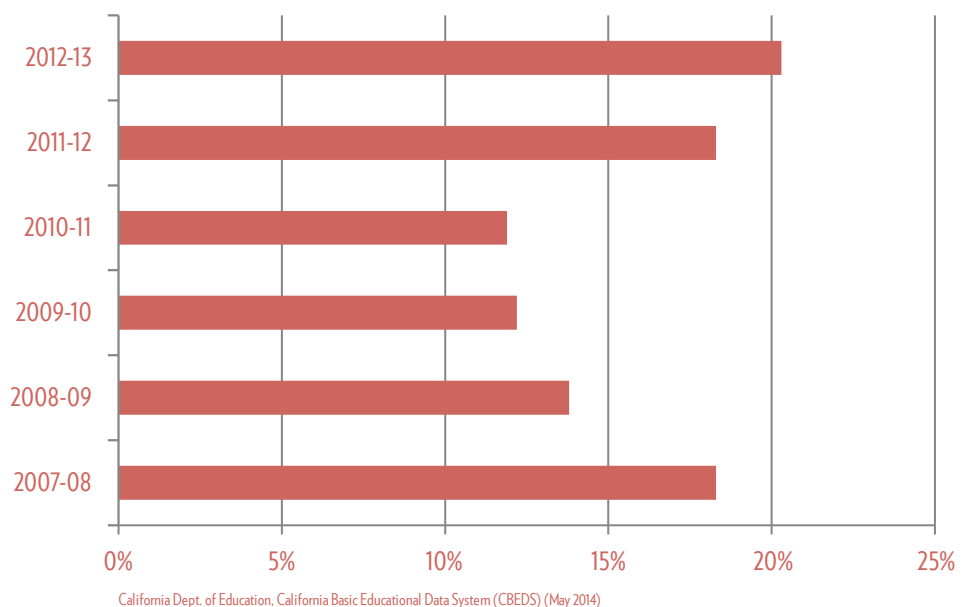
### *How are we doing?*

In Tehama County, all 10th grade students took the CAHSEE in March, 2014. Of the students who took the exam, 79% passed English Language Arts (ELA) and 82% passed math. Students who did not pass will have additional opportunities in their junior and senior year, if need be, to develop additional skills and take the exam again.

High school juniors took the Early Assessment Program (EAP) in May, 2013. In English, 18% of the students were deemed “Ready” and 13% were “Conditionally Ready”. In Algebra 2, 6% of the students were classified as “Ready” and 25% were “Conditionally Ready”. In summative mathematics, 14% were “Ready” and 63% were “Conditionally Ready”.

In 2013, the graduation rate in Tehama County was 80.40%. Of the students who graduated, 20.3% successfully completed the A-G requirements necessary to attend a California State University or a University of California. This represents an increase up from 18.3% (2012), and 11.9% (2011). In 2012, the statewide average was 38.3%, ranking Tehama County as 54th out of 58 counties.

## TEHAMA COUNTY UC/CSU A-G ELIGIBLE STUDENTS



# Blue Ribbon Commission

In 2012, Tehama County formed its Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC), made up of community leaders and stakeholders, with the goal of improving safety, permanency, well-being, and fairness outcomes for children and families in our County. The county BRC established five committees to address local issues:

**Foster Parent and Foster Youth Committee:** focuses on improving resources for our foster youth and increasing the number of foster homes in the county. Currently the county does not have enough homes to serve our foster youth, causing siblings to be separated, children uprooted from their schools and many children placed out of county.

**First Five Committee:** focuses on children from birth to five years of age. This committee is working to expand the referral of resources to assist at risk children and families at an early age. Research shows 90 percent of a child's brain develops in the first five years of life.

**Delinquency Court Committee:** develops strategies to reduce the school to prison pipeline, a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

**Truancy Committee:** focuses on early intervention to identify the cause of the student's truancy and provide resources to prevent truancy. Truant students are more likely to drop out of school, engage in criminal behavior and end up unemployed as adults.

**Dependency Court Committee:** focuses on the court issues regarding our at risk children who are removed from their parents for abuse or neglect. This committee has spearheaded the creation of Tehama County's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program. CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in court. These volunteers create relationships with children who have been abused and neglected and report their needs and condition to the Court.

Creating better outcomes in these areas increases graduation rates, reduces crime and creates a better community for all of us.



Students need to be provided with opportunities to explore their options beyond high school. College OPTIONS provides such an experience to local high school students from Red Bluff and Corning High Schools. In June, 2014, these students participated in the College OPTIONS 2014 College Campus Tour. This was a two-day, overnight event that included visits to the University of Santa Clara, UC Santa Cruz, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, CSU Monterey Bay, Asilomar State Beach, and UC Davis. The trip was provided free of charge to all participants, including lodging and meals. The goal of the event was to allow students to visit campuses that they might not otherwise have the opportunity to see and to teach them to ask important questions of potential colleges regarding retention rates, graduation rates, and accessibility of professors.

At Santa Clara University, students had the opportunity to select from a tour provided by the engineering department or a business focused tour provided by recent Red Bluff High graduate, Alana Hinkston. The students were impressed by the beautiful buildings and landscaping and learned that not all private universities require students to practice a certain religion. Although Santa Clara is a Jesuit university, students are not required to belong to that faith in order to attend.

The next stop on the trip was UC Santa Cruz. While sitting on a hill overlooking the ocean, the field trip participants attended a student panel, which included the opportunity to ask questions of current UCSC students. Many of the questions asked by the students focused on life in the dorms, what it's like to live away from your family, and what there was to eat. Following the student panel, students went on a tour of the campus. The tour was more of a "hike" which crisscrossed the campus on dirt paved paths lined with redwood trees. "Some students loved the campus, while others were not so impressed, and that is exactly why we

do these trips", says Lauren Tingley, an advisor with College OPTIONS. "A student may have signed up for the trip thinking they wanted to attend UC Santa Cruz, but after they visit they realize it wasn't what they thought it would, and for others the exact opposite was true".

The next morning the students went on a historical and ecological tour of the Asilomar State Beach and Conference Center, which was started by the YWCA in 1913 as an educational and training facility for women. After knocking the sand out of their shoes, the tour headed to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, where they were able to see displays of jellyfish, sea otters, and octopi. The students had a great time with the hands on exhibits and were able to touch some of the marine life in the interactive exhibits. The students also completed a career scavenger hunt which allowed them to learn about the various careers available within the aquarium including everything from accountant to zoologist.

The afternoon was spent visiting CSU Monterey Bay, which opened in 1995 on the site of the former Army base, Fort Ord. Students were able to see both the older and the more updated parts of campus, learn about the various majors offered, and talk to current CSUMB students before hitting the road to head toward UC Davis. At UC Davis students were able to eat dinner in the Coffee House followed by a walk through the quad area.

Returning to Tehama County in the evening on the last day, students were exhausted yet excited to share their experiences with friends and family. This opportunity had allowed them to learn more about the process of going to college, but also more about themselves and to begin to solidify their goals for the future. The hope is that they can share their new found knowledge and insight with their peers and create a network on information and support within our local community.



# World class experience

The Red Bluff High School Career Technical Education (formerly ROP) Sports Medicine Class began in 2002 as a way to both educate students in the field of Therapeutic Services and to serve the athletes at Red Bluff High School by expanding the care for their sports injuries.

The class takes places for two hours per day for the entire school year. During the first semester, students learn about body systems, emergency care, injuries, rehabilitation, exercise science and nutrition. During the second semester, students are placed in medical facilities throughout Red Bluff where they learn by observing and assisting in the fields of physical therapy, athletic training, medicine, nursing, fire-fighting and chiropractic services.

Since its inception, dozens of former students have gone on to work in healthcare. At last count there have been seven former students who are either enrolled in, or graduated from, physical therapy school. Several students have also pursued careers in fire-fighting, athletic training, pharmacy, chiropractic, nursing and exercise science.

This and other CTE programs have also provided a means for business within the community to really connect with Red Bluff High School and its students. The collaboration has provided training, education and connections for students with their field of interest, while the businesses have benefited by giving back to the community and training potential future employees!

## SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

The Senior Seminar is a programmatic approach to delivering the College and Career readiness standards to seniors that they require in order to be successful in their post-secondary life. At Los Molinos High School, the Senior Seminar is a required course for every senior. The curriculum focuses students on the requirements--academic, financial and social--of successfully attending to post secondary training, whether college, the military, or technical training. The curriculum also attempts to remediate many of the problems, beyond academic attainment, that tend to cause high failure rates for post secondary students. It is often issues such as balancing college and work, personal life issues or financial difficulties that result in a failure to complete post-sec-



ondary training. The Senior Seminar delivers explicit training in the soft skills students lack when leaving high school—interview skills, timeliness, speaking on the phone, and interpersonal communications. Additionally, the Senior Seminar delivers practical knowledge about a variety of adult skills that every person needs to be successful outside of the home. Students are asked to create a five year post-secondary plan, with a detailed first year list of all activities and a budget. This provides them with a road map to life beyond high school. In short, the Senior Seminar is an attempt to go beyond mere academic preparation to prepare students in every way possible to successfully navigate their post secondary world.

## DIGITAL MEDIA MASTERS

What a fantastic and exciting year 2014 has been for our community! We have seen so many projects gain traction and have had the opportunity to witness the positive results of true passion and hard work. One such project was the Digital Media Contest which was held at the beginning of this year. Students were encouraged to submit videos highlighting Tehama County, and thanks to the generous support of several donors, we were able to offer prizes to three winning projects created by 10 students from schools across the county. A celebration was held at the historic State Theatre to recognize the students and share their work with the community.

Following the celebration, the winning videos were also showcased by the Tehama County Chamber of Commerce, the Tehama County Department of Education and the Tehama Country Visitor's Center. Students were able to see their work live outside the walls of their classrooms, and through the magic of the internet, it will live on forever in cyberspace.

Stay tuned! Plans are currently in the works to continue offering opportunities such as this one for our students. There's magic in the power of education and community working together.

# FOCUS AREA 5

## EVERY YOUNG ADULT IS COMPLETING A COLLEGE EDUCATION OR CAREER TRAINING

### *Why is this important?*

### *What does the research say?*

Our hopes for our students do not end with high school or even with their start of a higher education plan. While we strive to see our high school students accept their diplomas fully prepared with options, the ultimate goal is that they complete their college education or career training.

Many of our students struggle with the cost of higher education and the resilience to make the transition successfully. Many have a hard time identifying a path they are interested in. We need to continue to mentor them after high school and beyond as well as advocate for creative funding options to help them complete their degrees.

### *What are our indicators?*

We currently use the Post-Secondary Attainment rates and the Unemployment Rate for this age group as our indicators.

### *How are we doing?*

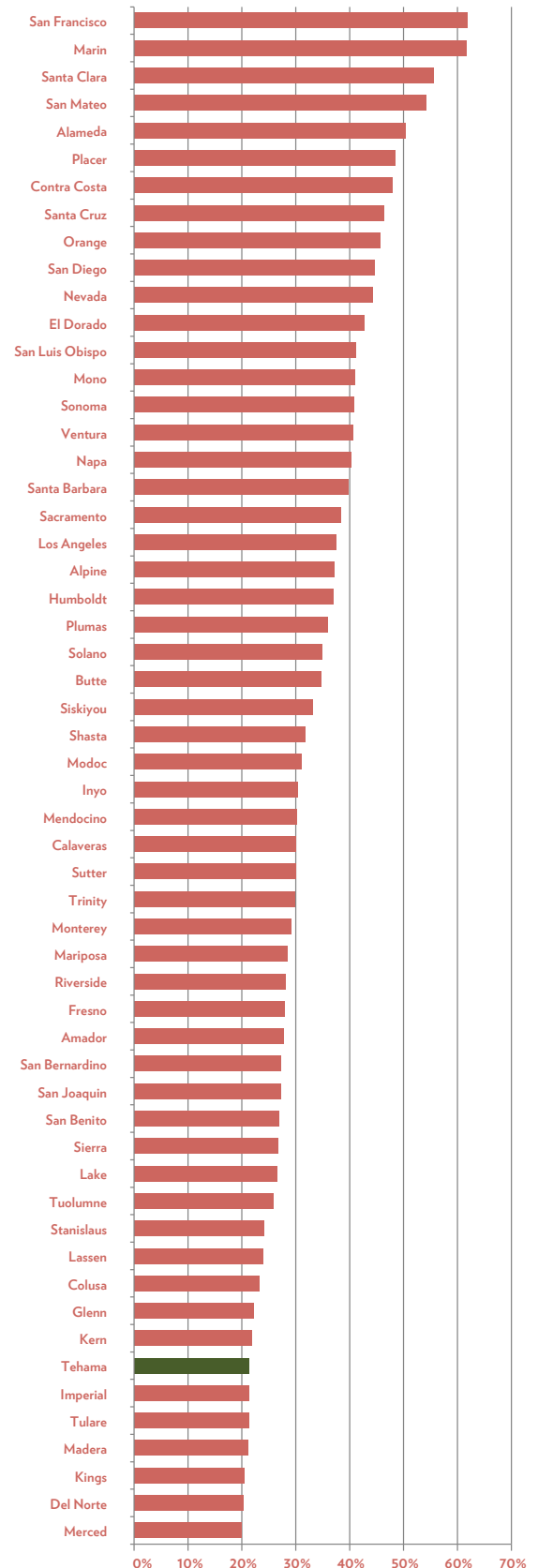
Our challenge is access to real time data. However, according to the most recent U.S. Census (2008-2012) and the percentage of adults (ages 25-64) with at least an associate degree, Tehama County ranks #52 out of 58 counties in California.

Unemployment rates are also an indicator. Nationally, this age group suffers from the highest unemployment rate overall.

## TEHAMA COUNTY LABOR FORCE STATISTICS

	TOTAL POPULATION	IN LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
POPULATION 16 YEARS & OVER	49,660	54.3%	44.6%	17.8%
AGE				
16-19 YEARS	3,487	31.5%	12.9%	59.2%
20-24 YEARS	3,747	66.9%	48.2%	27.9%

## PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS (AGES 25-64) WITH AT LEAST AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-12 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



# A Successful Summer Senior Send-Off

For Expect More Tehama, what could be more satisfying than gathering together recent high school graduates to celebrate and champion their plans for higher education? On June 25th Tehama County grads and many parents and other adult supporters attended a four hour send-off event at Rolling Hills. The event featured Tehama County college students speaking on topics like Surviving Homesickness, Staying Safe and Getting Involved on Campus.

"Expect More Tehama started with this class as 8th graders," said Kathy Garcia, a member of the EMT Leadership Team. "We want them to know the community supports them, and that going to college can be hard, but there are others who have gone before them who are examples of how to get the most from this opportunity."

Studies have shown that while a lot of students prepare to attend college, many do not have the support system and resilience to stay. However, students who know other students attending their college, feel support from home and who feel prepared for life on their own tend to do better.

"The best part of the evening was having a team of seven college students talk to the grads," said Garcia. "Jenn Crane from Corning attends UCLA and was

leaving within days of the event for Australia for a study abroad session. Alex Dahnke from Red Bluff talked about homesickness and living half a country away in Wisconsin during one of the coldest winters on record." Other college speakers included Laurel Shoop (UCLA), Stacy Soto (UCLA), Bailey Brownfield (Shasta College), Kenny Brewer (CSU, Chico), and Colin Igarta (Cal Poly SLO).

Party food, raffles and fun were included as the group celebrated this next great step and got to know one another. Thanks to the Red Bluff Daily News and Rolling Hills Casino for co-sponsoring the event and for the many donated prizes from EMT supporters like Lisa Rodriguez in Corning, Melissa Mendonca in Red Bluff, Trena Richards from Dairyville and Jill Botts in Los Molinos!

**Adoption Challenge:** At the event, the students were asked if they'd like to be adopted by the community. There are currently 40 who said yes, including the college presenters.

Adopting a student is simple. It is sending an encouraging card now and then or a care package during midterms and finals. It could be helping them find a job for the summer when they come home.

Would your business or agency like to adopt a college student? Adoption Papers are now available!



## Puente Project

As we see more students graduate high school prepared for college and career, our attention is turned to what must be done to assure their collegiate success. Many Tehama County students will be the first generation of their family to attend college. How can we best support them to successfully navigate the waters of higher education?

Shasta College implements the state-wide Puente Program, which has become a nationwide model for student success. Begun in 1981 at Chabot College in Hayward, PUENTE has won accolades for its approach to helping underserved students thrive academically—by holding high expectations, valuing cultural and social capital, and ensuring that students and their families have critical college-going information and guidance.

The mission of the Puente Project is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four year colleges and universities, earn degrees, and return to the community as leaders and mentors to future generations. Puente combines accelerated instruction, intensive academic counseling, and mentoring by members of the community.

Curriculum focuses on developing reading and writing skills through an exploration of Mexican-American/Latino literature. Students must be committed to transfer to a four-year college or university and must be willing to participate in extracurricular activities, such as an annual Puente student transfer conference, visits to four-year colleges and universities, and multicultural events in their community. Puente students come from a wide range of backgrounds and are usually the first in their families to attend college. All services provided to participants in Puente are free.

Volunteer mentors from the Tehama community are linchpins to Puente success. Mentors are matched with Puente students to provide guidance and networking opportunities. They open doors to career exploration and are strong voices of encouragement, pointing towards resources students may not find on their own.

On the Tehama Campus, contact Rosie Gilbert-Ahrens - Puente Co-Coordinator and Counselor at (530) 529-8976; rgilbert-ahrens@shastacollege.edu or James Crooks, III - Puente Co-Coordinator and English Instructor at (530) 529-8968; jcrooks@shastacollege.edu.

<http://www.puente.net/>  
<http://www.shastacollege.edu/StudentServices/EnrollmentServices/Puente/>



# FOCUS AREA 6

## EVERY ADULT IS EQUIPPED TO BE AN ENGAGED, SELF-SUSTAINED CITIZEN

### *Why is this important? What does the research say?*

The ultimate goal is for all students to become adults who are engaged, self-sustained citizens.

For those not planning to attend higher education directly out of high school, we must help them identify career paths and better understand the needs of local employers. How someone starts out as a young worker plays a major factor in their future earning potential. Integrating into the world of full time work is daunting, and we need opportunities for these entry-level workers to connect with the value of employment.

For those who attend college or career training programs we must identify career paths that will sustain employment for their educational attainment. This process is twofold. First, local employers who need college graduates and/or highly trained individuals must be identified. Second, industry sectors that currently do not exist in Tehama County need to be identified and recruited to meet the demands of future workers.

We want all citizens to participate in community groups and activities, philanthropic visions, and their local government.

### *What are our indicators?*

The EMT Framework currently uses living wage to measure this focus area.

### *How are we doing?*

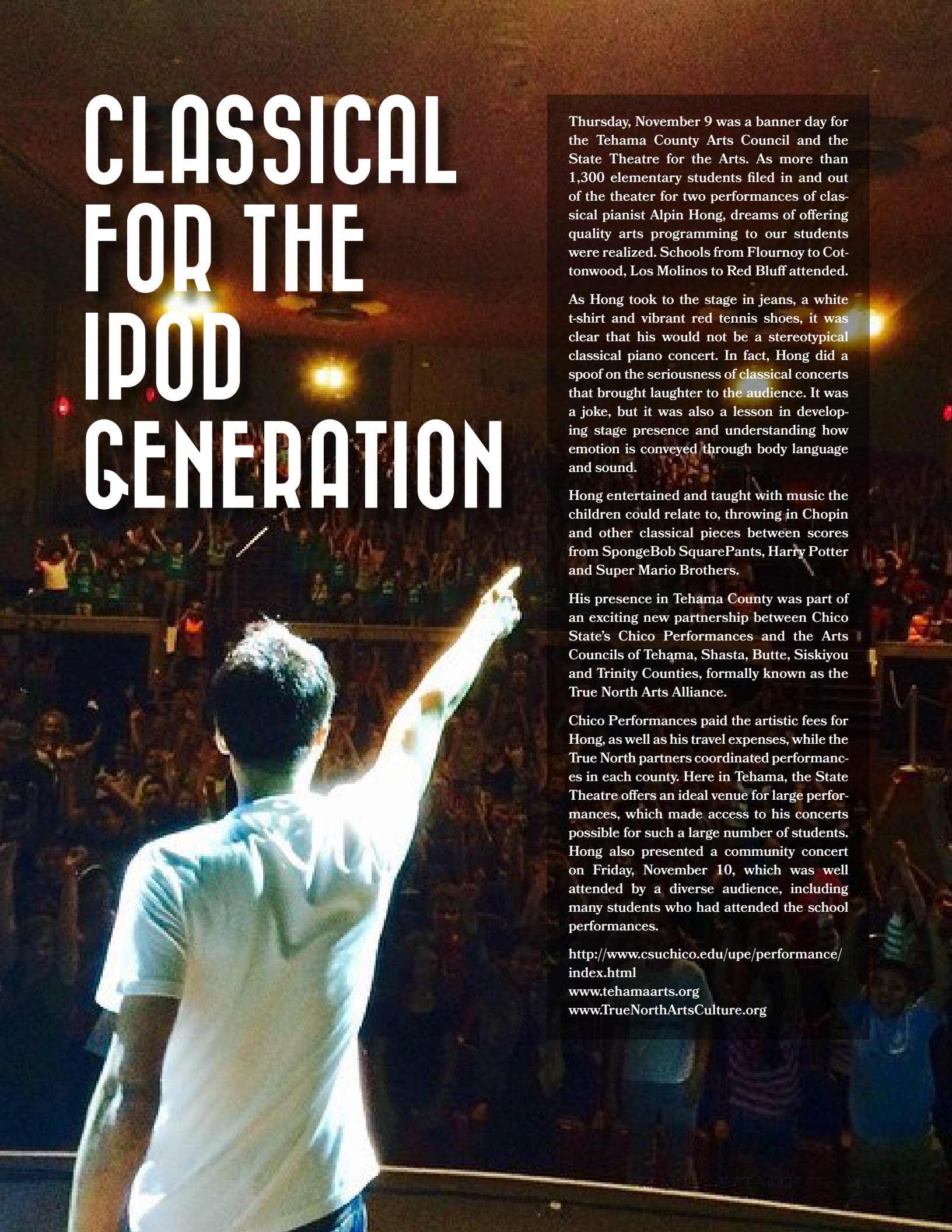
The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an individual must earn to support their family, if they are the sole provider and are working full-time (2080 hours per year). The state minimum wage is the same for all individuals, regardless of how many dependents they may have. The poverty rate is typically quoted as gross annual income. It is converted to an hourly wage for the sake of comparison.

## LIVING WAGE CALCULATION FOR TEHAMA COUNTY

HOURLY WAGES	1 ADULT	1 ADULT, 1 CHILD	1 ADULT, 2 CHILDREN	1 ADULT, 3 CHILDREN	2 ADULTS	2 ADULTS, 1 CHILD	2 ADULTS, 2 CHILDREN	2 ADULTS, 3 CHILDREN
LIVING WAGE	\$8.31	\$18.81	\$22.42	\$28.28	\$13.22	\$16.89	\$18.26	\$22.29
POVERTY WAGE	\$5.21	\$7.00	\$8.80	\$10.60	\$7.00	\$8.80	\$10.60	\$12.40
MINIMUM WAGE	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$8.00



# CLASSICAL FOR THE IPOD GENERATION

A man in a white t-shirt is seen from the back, pointing his right arm towards a large, dark crowd of children in a theater. The children are mostly seen as silhouettes, with some wearing hats. The scene is dimly lit, with a few bright spots of light from the theater's stage lights.

Thursday, November 9 was a banner day for the Tehama County Arts Council and the State Theatre for the Arts. As more than 1,300 elementary students filed in and out of the theater for two performances of classical pianist Alpin Hong, dreams of offering quality arts programming to our students were realized. Schools from Flourney to Cottonwood, Los Molinos to Red Bluff attended.

As Hong took to the stage in jeans, a white t-shirt and vibrant red tennis shoes, it was clear that his would not be a stereotypical classical piano concert. In fact, Hong did a spoof on the seriousness of classical concerts that brought laughter to the audience. It was a joke, but it was also a lesson in developing stage presence and understanding how emotion is conveyed through body language and sound.

Hong entertained and taught with music the children could relate to, throwing in Chopin and other classical pieces between scores from SpongeBob SquarePants, Harry Potter and Super Mario Brothers.

His presence in Tehama County was part of an exciting new partnership between Chico State's Chico Performances and the Arts Councils of Tehama, Shasta, Butte, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties, formally known as the True North Arts Alliance.

Chico Performances paid the artistic fees for Hong, as well as his travel expenses, while the True North partners coordinated performances in each county. Here in Tehama, the State Theatre offers an ideal venue for large performances, which made access to his concerts possible for such a large number of students. Hong also presented a community concert on Friday, November 10, which was well attended by a diverse audience, including many students who had attended the school performances.

<http://www.csuchico.edu/upe/performance/index.html>

[www.tehamaarts.org](http://www.tehamaarts.org)

[www.TrueNorthArtsCulture.org](http://www.TrueNorthArtsCulture.org)

# TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Tehama County Education Foundation (TCEF) has awarded the Teacher of the Year Award for 2014-2015 to Los Molinos High School teacher Chas Konopka. Chas' energy in the classroom is contagious, and his approach to teaching engages every learning style. Mr. Konopka sets high expectations for his students that go well beyond the classroom, instilling in them the skills that will make them successful in their pursuits for college and careers. Konopka is no stranger to recognition for his success, as he has also been recognized with the 2014 AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Teacher Advocacy Award.

The Tehama County Teacher of the Year award was presented to Mr. Konopka at the Tehama County Farm City Night and included an engraved apple award, a \$500 check from Tri-Counties Bank, and a gift basket from Expect More Tehama.

Every year TCEF visits Teacher of the Year candidates to observe instruction in the classroom and to conduct interviews. Candidates are selected from a pool of the previous year's Teacher of the Month Feature Teacher as well as from nominations solicited from the community.

## *Past recipients of the Teacher of the Year:*

- 2013/14, Jennie Caylor, Corning Elementary School District
- 2012/13, Veronica McFadden, Woodson Elementary School
- 2011/12, Kristina Zarate of Los Molinos Elementary School
- 2010/11, Lynette Faulker of Reeds Creek School
- 2009/10, Michelle Brown of Columbia State Preschool and Angel Virrueta of Antelope State Preschool



# SUMMERTIME FUN

What could be a better way to spend a summer evening with your family than spending time at downtown Red Bluff's Farmers' Market or Movies in the Park?

Citizens from across the county who brought their families to these two events this summer had the opportunity to visit the Tehama Reads booth and pick up books for everyone in their household to read.

At the Wednesday night Farmers' Market, Tehama Reads sponsored a booth with the support of the Tehama County Department of Education. Over the course of the summer, The Friends of the Library, Tehama County Department of Education, Tehama County Reading Council, First 5, Job Training Center, and California Preschool Instructional Network took turns running the booth.

Families who stopped to visit could select up to two books per person to take home to read. Babies, young children, adolescents, and even adults chose books. One young child asked if he could just stay there all night and read the books which were spread out over the grass carpet of the booth welcoming all readers. A young adult stopped by and looked at books. She said, "I remember my grandma reading this book to me when I was little. Can I please have it?" A retired gentleman re-

quested, "I would like some books on science to read to my grandson. Is it okay for me to take a few?" All who visited the booth spent time making selections and many returned from week to week. According to Nancy Veatch, ELA Coordinator at the Tehama County Department of Education and coordinator of Tehama Reads, "On average, over 200 books were distributed each Wednesday night throughout the summer, totaling 2400 books."

Another opportunity for families to engage this summer was provided at Movies in the Park which was held on June 28th, July 26th, and August 30th in Red Bluff. This free event for families was sponsored by Tehama Reads, Expect More Tehama, Rolling Hills Casino, and The Enjoy Store. Families brought their chairs, blankets, flashlights and snacks to enjoy Cars, Stuart Little, and Indian in the Cupboard, respectively. Corresponding books were passed out to the first 250 children in attendance for the evening. According to one family who attended all three showings, "This is a fantastic way for us to enjoy the outdoors and spend time together with our children and friends. Having our children get books was an added bonus."



# A LESSON IN COMPASSION

While driving through downtown Redding yesterday I saw a young scrawny guy on a bike carrying a shoe box under one arm as he zipped through traffic.

He had “the look” that’s become so familiar on Redding streets lately: grimy, usually hauling backpacks or bulging plastic garbage bags filled with aluminum cans.

Later, at the post office, I realized I was a few people in line behind that same shoe-box guy I’d seen earlier.

While I waited my turn, I got a closer look at him. He was somewhere in his late 20s to 30s, which put him in my kids’ age bracket. Small, bright red sores dotted his face and neck. He had a small, narrow dirty backpack, and wore a T-shirt with black shorts that reached to his knees, leaving enough skin exposed to show his collection of cursive tattoos and the electronic bracelet around his right ankle.

Those visual cues led to my snap conclusions: Meth addict, probably homeless, on probation, maybe an AB-109er, could be a Shasta County’s Most Wanted.

He handed the shoe box to the clerk. The box was the single-piece kind for athletic shoes with a hinged cardboard lid. The scruffy guy also handed the clerk a piece of paper, which I assumed was the package address.

That clerk is one of my favorites at the downtown Redding post office. He reminds me slightly of a younger Drew Carey, except taller and better-looking. This clerk sometimes wears stylish hats, and he’s almost always smiling and joking around, unlike another young guy who works there who acts as if every moment he serves the unwashed masses is pure torture. Fact is, I am so off-put by the grumpy clerk that I will actually let people go ahead of me in line to avoid being waited on by Mr. Cranky Pants. His sour puss attitude just bugs the living daylight out of me.

But I digress. The happy clerk’s name tag says “JD,” which I remember because my memory prompt trick for his name is “Just Dandy”.

I was curious how JD would handle the scruffy guy. JD could have - even rightfully so - given the kid a load of crap for not taping up the box, which now meant that JD had to do it, and he’d have to use precious post office tape, to boot.

Instead, JD whips out his trusty tape gun, and with great flourish and lots of noise tapes up the package, all the while chatting up the guy as if they’re long-lost buddies, telling him he’ll get that package fixed up just fine in no time.

The scruffy guy smiled almost shyly, which is how I noticed his rotten teeth. The smile was also how I noticed that under the sores, the guy had a sweet face. And really, he was just a kid. Somebody’s kid.

When it was my turn, I told JD that I appreciated how kind he

was - to everyone. He laughed and said something like, “I try, but some days it’s not easy. I just try to treat people how I’d like to be treated.”

He is right, of course. But I needed the reminder. Lately, I’ve found myself in such a state of shock and awe in my Changed Redding that I can feel my compassion slipping away, replaced by judgment, fear and frustration.

I see scruffy people slinking into the brush by my neighborhood canal, and think, “There goes another one,” while I wonder if I’ll get a Neighborhood Watch email tomorrow that reports a break-in or gas-siphoning.

I read Facebook posts where words like “dirt bag” and “losers” have become synonymous with all homeless, all transients, all AB109ers, all people holding signs that say “Help me”, and all people who look remotely like any of the above.

I read an anonymously hosted WordPress blog, Crumbling Town - Redding, CA, - The horrific demise of a once beautiful and peaceful town in Northern California, that shows photos of area transients, and mocks them. (It also re-posts other media’s content, such as from aNewsCafe.com.)

Here on aNewsCafe.com, we recently removed a comment by a reader who suggested a good solution was to shoot transients, a sentiment I’ve also seen on Facebook lately.

Don’t misunderstand; I’m as exasperated and fed up with the sorry state of my city as the next person. Somebody smashed my car window to steal my (poorly hidden) purse. I’m no longer shocked to see people tweeking or flying high in public places. I’m nearly unfazed by what would have floored me two years ago: businesses that have urine and feces on their doorsteps; reports of a transient woman who dropped her pants, squatted and urinated at a downtown intersection last week. I joke that you’ll know I’m feeling suicidal if I shop at my nearby “unSafe-way” after 11 p.m.

In all seriousness, I haven’t a clue (other than amped-up mental health services and living-wage jobs, STAT) how to solve our city’s most vexing problems. My hopeful side believes that after next month’s election, help is on its way.

Meanwhile, that kid in the post office -- the one mailing a shoe box that contained God knows what to God knows who -- we know nothing about him, especially the biggest question of all: You poor kid. What the hell happened to you?

While we’re in the asking mode, here’s one for us: Our poor city. What the hell happened to you?

But here’s what I do know; I know that kid thawed a little under the warmth of a postal clerk’s kindness.

The thing is, there’s no way of know if that kid with the shoe box was inching his way back up, or was on his way even further down.

*Maybe a little compassion could make the difference.*

# *Expect More Tehama's Framework*

At the core of the Expect More Tehama Framework is the vision that our community must commit to the education of our children to ensure that they have the skills they need to graduate from high school with a plan to continue their education or technical skill development so they may become productive citizens.

*This framework has four key components:*

## **SHARED COMMUNITY VISION**

A cross-section of stakeholder engagement and participation is vital to the success of EMT (Expect More Tehama). This work cannot be done by one organization alone, but it can be achieved by convening diverse partners of the community (education, civic, philanthropic, business, parents, students, community-based organizations, etc.) to work toward a common vision with clear focus areas.

## **EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING**

EMT is committed to the responsible use of data as a call to action for our stakeholders and as a way to hold each other accountable. By annually reporting and evaluating progress on the identified key indicators, we aim to help all stakeholders better understand progress over time and identify opportunities for improvement.

## **COLLABORATIVE ACTION**

To realize progress and success, community resources should be aligned around the common vision and focus areas. EMT aims to bring key stakeholders together to identify and implement appropriate strategies/programs aimed at improving student outcomes.

## **INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY**

EMT understands that investment of resources must produce noticeable gains while building a lasting network of support for the students of Tehama County.

