

News & Notes



STEAM Expo 2016 in Review

Kathleen Kiefer

STEAM Team Member

This article appeared in the May 5 issue of the CCSESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Association) publication, as the 'COE Spotlight', sharing Nevada County's highly successful STEAM Expo across the State of California.

"Recognizing that innovations which incorporate science, technology, engineering, art, and math are poised to continue transforming our world in the 21st Century, it is our goal to give Nevada County schools a way to showcase their efforts in bringing this type of education to our students. We also hope to link these educational goals with career opportunities provided by local businesses and organizations." **Holly Hermansen, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools**

What does a county office do when it realizes that its annual science fair and math tournament no longer reflect the 21st Century instruction and learning happening in the classroom? Well, the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office's solution was to host our first ever STEAM Expo!

The definition of the integration of the STEAM disciplines states that it is, "**Science & Technology, interpreted through Engineering & the Arts, all based in Mathematical elements.**" (steam.edu, 2015) So, in

planning the Expo, NCSOS took to heart steam.edu's philosophy: A STEAM framework for teaching is based on natural ways of learning, customizable for ALL types of students and programs and is FUNctional! Shifting to a STEAM perspective means understanding learning contextually; not only in terms of having a framework that illustrates where the subjects overlap, but also in providing a living and adaptable learning structure for ever-changing personal and global development.

We began by reaching out to Nevada County schools, local businesses, community members, and others who use or have vested interests in the type of educational opportunities STEAM encourages. The response was overwhelming! Before we knew it, we had enough sponsors and event participants to reserve and fill one of our county's largest community venues.

Prior to the public event, approximately 125 students were hard at work on projects, investigations, and problem solving challenges in the categories of Scientific Inquiry, Rube Goldberg, Environment/Agriculture, Science Fiction, Robotics/Computer Science, Reverse Engineering, Invention, and Math. These students proudly delivered their products to the event site to be judged. On the eve of the Expo, county board members, retired teachers, current county superintendents and principals, local engineers, and NC Arts Council members spent many hours evaluating and scoring each and every eligible student submission.

On Saturday, April 9th, NCSOS opened the doors of the Main Street Center at the Nevada County Fairgrounds and welcomed approximately 1000 visitors to STEAM Expo 2016. Inside, students were able to compete in on-the-spot robotics competitions, experience hands-on math challenges, create with 3D pens and printers, assemble and launch paper hot air balloons, make constellation wheels, contact distant countries via radio, code and

control robots, experience science-based art projects, and play musical instruments from flutes to tubas.



Families and other visitors enjoyed looping STEAM video shorts, perusing student competition displays, astronomy club photos and challenges, local classroom STEAM art projects, Search and Rescue technology, free bicycle tune-ups by local students, musical performances by the newly formed Music in the Mountains Youth Orchestra, and much, much more.

The NCSOS STEAM Expo 2016 closed with an awards ceremony during which over 50 students were recognized for their work in each STEAM category. Leonardo Da Vinci Awards were given for outstanding artistic communication of the students' processes and products. The Nevada County Engineers' Association distributed cash awards for the top three student submissions that demonstrated excellence in engineering, and three projects were selected to move on to the California State Science Fair to be held in Los Angeles in May. Given the astounding participation and response to this new event, we look forward with great enthusiasm to STEAM Expo 2017!

The date has been scheduled for STEAM Expo 2017 - March 23-24-25, 2017. Details will be rolled out in the fall, but all information needed by teachers, to prepare students for STEAM Expo 2017, can be found at <http://www.nevcoexpo.org>.

7th-8th Grade Speech Tournament 2016

Sharon Shafran

Countywide Tournament Coordinator

On March 10 sixty-four of the top oration students from fifteen local public and private schools competed in the countywide Speech Tournament, addressing the topic "What Music Means to Me". The tournament was coordinated by the NCSOS office and sponsored by Tri

Counties Bank, the Rotary Club of Grass Valley, and the Nevada Theatre.

Students recited speeches three times, each time to a different judge. Semi-finalists were determined, who then recited their speeches one last time to three judges, for the selection of finalists. Three finalists from each grade were selected to proceed to the Speech Finals. The judging team consisted of 15 volunteers from local businesses, organizations and retired professionals. Speeches were evaluated on content and delivery with a time limit of two minutes to a maximum of three & one half minutes.

Student finalists presented their speeches at an evening program held at the Nevada Theatre. The esteemed panel of judges consisted of representatives from local Toastmasters groups. Each finalist received a trophy (1st-3rd place for each grade) and a \$25 Book Seller gift certificate. These awards were presented by Holly Hermansen, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools; Anita Daniels, Vice President, Branch Manager of Tri Counties Bank; and, Bob Long, President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Grass Valley.

4th Grade:

1 st	Amarah Cox	Bell Hill Academy
2 nd	Grady Grandfield	Deer Creek School
3 rd	Kaeli Horn	Bell Hill Academy

5th Grade:

1 st	Connor Drew	Seven Hills School
2 nd	Elsie Luisetti	Seven Hills School
3 rd	Owen Papegaay	Cottage Hill School

6th Grade:

1 st	Jack O'Neil	Mt. Saint Mary's Academy
2 nd	Giorgia Glassford	Seven Hills School

7th Grade:

1 st	Calais Poirson	Seven Hills School
2 nd	Gianna Rose	Forest Charter School
3 rd	Clara Luisetti	Seven Hills School

8th Grade:

1 st	Karlie McCracken	Seven Hills School
2 nd	Bella O'Neil	Mt. Saint Mary's Academy
3 rd	Alison Strange	Magnolia School

Congressional Art Competition 2016

Judy Nielsen

Nevada County Arts Lead

Each spring the Congressional Institute sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition that honors the talents and abilities of the nation's young people. Each State representative has one winning piece of artwork that hangs at the Capitol in Washing D.C. for one year. Since 1982 more than 650,000 high school students have participated in the program.

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16-year old Nevada County resident, Noah Gregoire, won the US House of Representative's Congressional Art Competition for California's 1st Congressional District, for his picture, Chi Energy. Noah will be celebrated at an annual awards ceremony in Washington D.C. during the early summer, and his work displayed for one year at the US Capitol. Until the work leaves home, Nevada County Arts Council will hang his work at the Greater Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce, alongside other works by Nevada County high school students. Noah was one of several highly commended students from North Point Academy in Grass Valley, who submitted work.

An aspect of Nevada County Arts Council has been to encourage participation. For District 1, Nevada County student submissions totaled more than Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Glenn or Placer combined. Congratulations to all student participants in the Congressional Art Competition.

Classified School Employees of the Year

Samie White

Nevada County CSEY Coordinator

Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) is a State-wide program that begins at the district level. Each year Nevada County school districts recognize one person from their district who has demonstrated outstanding

dedication and performance in one of six areas. This year seven classified employees were recognized in three different categories. They were: Office & Technical – Sue Sample/Pleasant Ridge SD and Carol Lee/NJUHSD; Para-Educator & Instructional Assistant – Margaret “Micki” Baldwin/Clear Creek SD, Stephanie Mashburn/NCSOS, Vicki Kopec/Pleasant Valley Union Elementary SD, and Terry Chapman/Grass Valley SD; and in the category of Maintenance, Operations & Facilities, Phil Dittberner/Nevada City SD. Countywide CSEY applications will be submitted to the CDE for consideration to become a State recognized CSEY. Congratulations to each of these individuals, who represent the dedication of all classified school employees throughout Nevada County.



‘Harvest of the Month’ program’ from Sierra Harvest to Nevada County Schools

Judy Nielsen

Editor of the NUGGET

To close out the 2015-16 school year, the Harvest of the Month program, brought into Nevada County Schools by local non-profit Sierra Harvest, 6,800 students are tasting blackberries in 22 schools and 290 classrooms. This school year alone, these same students have tasted over 5,300 pounds of local fruits and veggies as part of Sierra Harvest’s farm-to-school programming, including produce like jicama, persimmons, Asian pears, cabbage and microgreens. Students love tasting the new (and sometimes familiar) foods, learning about the farmers who grow them, and the time of year when these foods are in season. A big thank you goes out to Sierra Harvest, as they have stepped up to the plate in educating Nevada County students about this basic daily function for survival – where food comes from and healthful eating. For more information about this fabulous program contact Sierra Harvest at info@sierraharvest.org

Trainings • Field Trips • Opportunities for All

Trainings

Summer Institute: Creativity at the Core

The second annual 3-day Creativity at the Core Summer Institute is steeped in active learning and geared toward K-University teachers, administrators, curriculum directors, artist educators, arts leaders, pre-service teachers, arts specialists, teaching artists, parents, and school board members. Deepen your understanding of Visual & Performing Arts Learning and California Common Core State Standards. Presented by CCSESA Statewide Arts Initiative in partnership with Create CA, CDE, and the Santa Clara COE Artspiration. Institute takes place July 28-30 in San Jose at the Santa Clara COE. For more info and to register go to www.ccsesaarts.org.

NCSOS Countywide PD Day: Monday, September 19, 2016

September 19, 2016 will be the second annual Countywide Professional

Development Day, taking place at Nevada Union High School from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Following check-in and breakfast, this year there will be a keynote presentation by highly regarded CUE, who will also be one of many presenters for self-selected breakout sessions.

Each educator will be able to participate in four 1-hour sessions. Some of the areas that will be addressed are: Next Generation Science, CUE, Math Instructional Best Practices, Health, Special Education, Flipping a Classroom, Successful Collaboration/PLC/RTI Practices, Peer Review, Nevada County Drug Task Force Team, Panel

Discussion with Child Protective Services, and more. This year training will also be offered for front office staff.

NCSOS looks forward to kicking off next year with this inspiring and unifying professional development opportunity. All registration will take place after August 17, 2016. The NCSOS is happy to announce a new on-line system, OMS that will make registration user friendly.

US Forest Service offers Forestry Institute for Teachers

The United States Forest Service offers a forestry institute each year through the UC Coop Extension. The Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) is a unique and powerful train-the-trainer tool for forestry information in California. There are four sessions this summer. For more information and the registration link, go to <http://www.forestryinstitute.org/>.

Field Trips

Music in the Mountains: Young Composers Concerts

Young Composers is comprised of students 11-18 years who have studied all year, in addition to their regular school day, in the area of music composition. The year-long program culminates with two evening performances, guaranteed to knock your socks off. This year musical themes are based on inspiring works of fine art. Thus, the concert becomes multi-media as artwork is projected behind the musicians.

Concerts take place June 14 and June 16, 7:00 p.m., Peace Lutheran Church. Tickets are available at the door.

*Education Director Mark Vance
530.265-6173 x202
mark@musicinthemountains.org*

Opportunities for All

Global Competition for students: Happiness Explained

The Oxford Foundation for Knowledge Exchange has announced a global competition for the best essay or blog responding to any central theme or topic in *Happiness Explained*, published by Oxford University Press, 2016. Schools of winning students will also receive a cash award. This writing competition is for students 11-20 years old and should be 100-500 words on the question: What is happiness and what can we do to promote it? To learn how to enter students, go to www.happinessexplained.org.

FREE Cyber Camp Opportunity

Cyber Camp features three days of no-cost introductory cybersecurity training for middle and high school students. Instruction is led by community college faculty and middle and high school teachers. The three-day program ends with team competitions and an awards ceremony sponsored by the Air Force Association. Ideal candidates are incoming 7th-12th graders with little to no cybersecurity experience. Program is free with breakfast, lunch, and snacks included. To register or for more info: <https://www.sacregiondsn.technology/cybercamps.html>

FREE NID Watershed Summer Day Camp

NID offers three dates for students ages 8-10 to learn about our local watershed. Camp includes guided nature tour and Informational activities. Camps are 1-day each, take place at Scotts Flat Ditch Tender House, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on June 23, July 14, and August 4. Contact Jim Pelton for info and availability at 530.265.8861 or peltonj@nidwater.com.

CPR & First Aid Training

See *Quick Reference Calendar* below for dates and times thru June

23, 2016. CPR & First Aid Training is \$60. Fees must be prepaid to reserve a spot in class. For further info call Faith

at 478-6400 x201 or register on-line at www.nevco.org/register

Quick Reference Calendar...

Calendar events have been highlighted in previous editions of *The Nugget* and are listed in chronological order. Back issues of *The Nugget*, with additional information, can be found at www.nevco.org/news-events.



Upcoming CPR Class Dates

CPR & FIRST AID	Tues. 6/14	3 p.m. – 7 p.m.
CPR & FIRST AID	Thurs. 6/23	5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Student Music Performances

June 14 MIM Young Composers Concert
 June 16 MIM Young Composers Concert



Adventures in Learning

June 27 – July 21, 2016 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday



NCSOS Countywide Professional Development Day

Monday, September 19, 2016 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Nevada Union High School

