A message from Superintendent Scott W. Lay:

To say this school year has been strange would be one of the biggest understatements ever! Everything started off in our normal fashion with the Nevada County Fair and seeing all our students and educators enjoying themselves under the pine trees in August. We then hit our first roadblock – PSPS days. These were something new to us and an event we didn’t think would steal so many of our student contract days. Having no electricity on warm, breezy fall days was eerie and unsettling for many of us. When they finally ended we thought that the only bump on the horizon would be snow days. Unfortunately, this was just a taste of what was to come.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began around the world in February, I don’t believe any of us would have predicted how disruptive it would become to our entire lives. On March 9th, I and the other 57 county superintendents were asked to meet with Governor Newsom and Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tony Thurmond, at the Capitol to discuss what may be ahead for schools and our society in general. It was sobering and surreal and I still remember driving back home to Grass Valley with my head spinning with the thoughts of what could happen. By the end of the week I met with the district superintendents and charter directors and we decided to close our schools for the safety of our students, staff, and community. I don’t believe any of us thought at that time it was going to last until the final day of the school year and beyond.

We are now faced with the task of what the 2020-21 school year will look like. All schools in the county are having that discussion and truly want to have face-to-face contact with their students. The barriers at this time are the looming budget cuts and the health orders that will be in place come August. Other issues are parents who want to keep their students on a distance learning model because they don’t feel safe yet and staff that may be in compromised health groups. These are all big issues but I’m certain we can tackle them together to do what is best for students.

I want to end by thanking the certificated, classified, and administrative ranks who turned our traditional style of teaching into a distance learning model in one week. You jumped into this challenge with both feet and constantly refined what you were doing. You provided food to the students who needed it and made personal phone calls to check on their well-being. I’m proud of what we accomplished and look forward to what we can do in the 2020-21 school year.

Thank you for all your incredibly hard work.

Scott W. Lay
Educational Services

Supporting our Local Schools for Improved Student Performance

Teena Corker, Associate Superintendent, Educational Services

This year saw our support team (Teena Corker, Andrea Marks, Steve Hansen and Carrie Ferrero) work with several districts and charter schools to improve student performance based on the results shown from the 2019 California School Dashboard. Each district or charter came to the county office workshops with their teams to design target improvements in specific areas, such as chronic absenteeism, suspension or an academic area (ELA or Math). Leading this effort of improvement, our team facilitated work which was based on data gathered by the teams, and dialogued what possible causes could be contributing for the high-need areas. The benefit of our workshops this year was the opportunity for districts and charters to share with other districts and charters their information and find similarities and/or differences in targeted areas for improvement. We were at the point in our efforts where we were about to develop some change ideas to try to implement toward improvement when COVID-19 hit. We then had to pause our efforts and focus on supporting our districts and charters toward developing distance learning plans and providing resources for teachers to utilize as their instruction took a drastic turn. Our intention is to return to this important support work with our districts and charters in the late fall.

NCSOS Begins Countywide Math & Science Community of Practice

by Carolyn Ferrero

Working collaboratively with the intent to support and amplify science and math instruction in Nevada County, science and math leaders combined efforts in a joint enterprise: the Nevada County Math & Science Community of Practice. In this shared journey, educational leaders from eight districts examined math and science standards implementation, explored issues of student access and equity in the math and science disciplines, and engaged in shared expertise about how to improve implementation processes and outcomes for science and mathematics instruction countywide.

This year, our team worked to implement the Teaching for Robust Understanding Framework and integration of Academic Talk in science and mathematics instruction with a focus on phenomena. These practices were modeled in guest teacher classrooms and practiced with students in real time to measure the level of impact.

![The Five Dimensions of Powerful Classrooms]

This process proved successful for both the purpose of professional development, and sharing the strategies more widely cross-county with teachers and students that were unable to participate in training. Thank you to Cottage Hill Elementary School, Williams Ranch Elementary School, Union Hill School, and Forest Charter School for opening up your campuses for this work. This process was consistent with researcher Etienne Wenger’s conception of a community of practice, where learning is a social activity that occurs in the context of “lived experience” through “mutual engagement, joint enterprise, and shared repertoire.”

Continued on page 3
Continued from page 2 - Math & Science

Together the Science and Math Community of Practice tackled four essential learning topics:

- Examine Best Practices in Math and Science
- Science and Mathematics Standards Implementation & Assessment
- Equity & Access Issues
- Community Resources to Support Math and Science Implementation

Next year, with the adoption of new mathematics standards, distance learning needs, and continued development and alignment of NGSS curriculum, Nevada County Educators look forward to the opportunity to continue to collaborate and make informed decisions to support the needs of our students countywide in the areas of math and science.

We expect to maintain our dynamic work through discourse and meet virtually or in person throughout the year to support continued growth, research, and progress in the area of science and mathematics implementation. Together we will explore discipline specific challenges, curate tools and strategies for stronger and more productive student engagement, and develop a sustainable model for science and math instruction in Nevada County.

We will continue to engage leading science and mathematics educators to focus on issues in instruction and standards implementation through collaboration. Collectively we will continue to identify opportunities to close instructional gaps in math and science and have measurable impact countywide on science and math instruction through our engaged professional development in the 2020-2021 Science and Math Community of Practice.

If you are a science or math teacher in Nevada County who would like to join this group, please contact Carolyn Ferrero at cferrero@nevco.org.

Tobacco Use Prevention Education

At TUPE we have been working hard to find ways to keep in touch with students and provide educational resources during Covid-19. There is much sadness and disappointment for many of our students. They are missing their friends, grieving missed opportunities and canceled plans, and worried about their futures.

As a result, we are finding ways to stay connected with them and offer support to help them get through this time.

- We are converting all of our middle and high school lessons to a digital format. This way students can still get educated on the health risks of smoking, vaping and marijuana use and learn strategies for making healthy decisions around substance use.
- We've started a YouTube series for middle school students. The idea is to help them think through ways to make a smooth and healthy transition to high school, while hearing from Seniors on their experiences. Students have an opportunity to have their questions answered on future episodes. The TUPE Channel can be found here: Everything You Need To Know Before Starting High School
- We continue to record podcasts on KVMR to share educational and cessation resources with the community
- We created a Google Classroom where TUPE Peer Educators can work on projects, such as designing next year’s TUPE T-shirt and creating a new TUPE Logo
- Many resources can be found on our TUPE Website
**SCHOLAR DAY AT THE FAIR 2019**

NCSOS’ annual "Scholar Day at the Fair" at the [Nevada County Fairgrounds](https://www.nevadaCountyFair.com) on August 7, 2019, was a great success.

Nevada County Superintendent, Scott W. Lay, and Associate Superintendent of Educational Services, Teena Corker, brought big smiles to scholar students' faces as they chatted with each student, family member, and educator while passing out free popsicles. Thanks also goes to Board Member, Heino Nicolai, who helped keep the popsicles coming!! We hope everyone enjoyed the fair last year!

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**Nevada County Network Improvement Community Project Prevails!**

by Andrea Marks, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Accountability

Despite power outages and a pandemic, Year 2 of the Nevada County Network Improvement Community project was another successful year of collaborative capacity building and professional learning related to designing lessons with the Universal Design for Learning Framework.

Teachers from eight school districts and one charter school participated in professional learning opportunities offered by Nevada County Superintendent of Schools in conjunction with the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST). Participants learned how the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework provides choice and opportunities for all types of learners to access curriculum and to demonstrate their learning.

A total of thirty-two teachers then met in smaller cohorts led by NCSOS Instructional Coaches and Teacher Leaders to design and teach lessons together. During their observations, they collected anecdotal data on what students were doing and saying. This informed their learning about the effectiveness of the UDL strategies they were testing out in their lessons. Teachers then refined their lessons and developed new strategies.

With social distancing constraints, things will look much different for Year 3 of the project. However, high-quality coaching and professional learning will still be the focus of the project. The project will shift from a face-to-face model to a virtual Universal Design for Learning Community of Practice. Nicole Tucker Smith of CAST will lead four virtual sessions over the course of the school year and the NCSOS Instructional Coaches will meet with teachers to design and debrief lessons in between the Community of Practice sessions. This new model will allow for more teachers to participate as there will be a cap of 75 rather than just 25 participants. If you are a teacher and would like to learn more about participating in Year 3 of the Nevada County Network Improvement Community project please contact Andrea Marks at amarks@nevco.org
Year-end Wrap up by Director of School Safety: Chris Espedal

What a year it has been! Thank you to all of the Nevada County school sites for your hard work and efforts to provide best practices for the safety and well-being of students and staff. All of your efforts have helped provide a confidence in the safety plans in place for our schools. Some of the highlights include:

- Staff training on safety and preparedness
- School safety week across the county
- Earthquake, Fire, Disaster preparedness
- School site efforts to provide defensible space for campuses – wildland fire efforts
- Response to Public Safety Power Shut-Offs
- Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at Bear River, Ghidotti, and Nevada Union High School
- Mental Health Wellness Video highlighting Nevada County youth
- Response to COVID 19

As we look to the future and to those that will take the lead eventually, I would like to highlight one of our amazing students who takes safety seriously.

Meet Alma Ramirez!

Alma is a graduating Senior at Nevada Union High School. Alma served as Associate Student Body (ASB) Secretary and sat on the ASB Cabinet developing and implementing plans for school activities and events. She was a member and Girls’ Team Captain, of the Cross Country and Track team. Off campus, she was a well-liked and respected employee, serving as a State Park Aide at Empire Mine and Malakoff Diggins, where she led tours and answered visitor questions.

As Director of School Safety, I am privileged to be an instructor for the TEEN version of the federal program, Community Emergency Response Team. Students learn fire safety and suppression, the Incident Command System, triage, medical operations, disaster psychology and light search and rescue. Many students who complete the class are interested in a future career in law enforcement, fire services, or the medical field. Alma is no exception. Teens in grades 9-12 from Bear River, Ghidotti, and Nevada Union High School committed to 22 hours of training, hands-on skills, and testing to certify as a member of their school site CERT team. Alma completed the required training last year and served as Incident Commander of this year’s team. She rallied to add an additional training to the school calendar to bring more students onto the team. Under Alma’s leadership, Nevada Union hosted their SAFETY day inviting local first responder agencies to visit the school and share with students about their organization.

Balancing a busy academic, extra-curricular and work schedule Alma graduates with plans to attend Pacific Union College, majoring in Biochemistry, Theology and minoring in Arabic and French, in conjunction with Pre-Med. Her long-term goal is to be a General Surgeon and work with Doctors Without Borders. I have no doubt Alma will be successful. Congratulations to this NU Senior; thank you for your contribution to the safety of staff and students in our community, now and in the future.
Earle Jamieson Educational Options and Sugarloaf Mountain Programs
by Amy Brooks, Principal, EJ and Sugarloaf

With a goal of closing the equity gaps, removing educational barriers and creating a restorative pathway for our students, together, we have accomplished great things this year at Earle Jamieson and Sugarloaf.

Throughout the year students were given the opportunity to express themselves through their voices in the Poetry Out-Loud program and in our Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) program. In the TUPE program, students became peer educators and created activities and videos to educate about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse while providing healthy alternatives. They also created a suicide awareness video for Each Mind Matters through the Directing Change Film Contest supported by the CA Dept. of Education and was one of 15 videos to move on for regional judging.

Teachers participated in professional development opportunities including ongoing Universal Design for Learning and Social-Emotional Learning Community of Practice Cohorts. Our entire staff collaborated with a consultant from the CA Dept. of Education on finding ways to reduce our suspension rates at Earle Jamieson through improvement of our restorative practices; and the results showed…we reduced our suspension rates!

Teachers and staff responded quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic and shifted to accommodate students through distance-learning. From paper and pencil to Google Classroom and materials packages, group work to Zoom meetings, we did what was necessary to deliver and provide meaningful education to all of our students. We want to thank the collaboration and partnership with many Nevada County agencies, public health, law enforcement and probation for the support of our students, families and staff; we appreciate you all.

Wellness Update - by Marea Filmer, Wellness Committee Chair

COVID-19 hasn’t stopped our wellness program from continuing. In fact, we have picked up the pace because now more than ever, our employees need wellness.

Marlene Mahurin, wanting to connect with co-workers after our offices closed mid-March, shared a picture of her home office space. Little did she know that would turn into a wellness challenge, prompting staff to share pictures of their home office space. From there, it was evident that wellness could still be accomplished virtually. In April, the Healthy Selfie challenge was announced. Each week, staff were encouraged to send selfies of themselves performing all things wellness. The weekly challenges included exercise, healthy eating, stress-relievers and family time selfies.

For the month of May, the 20-day mental wellness challenge just concluded. Staff were encouraged to complete and record tasks during the workweek, such as journaling, de-cluttering a room, making a wholesome breakfast, meditating, etc. Three random winners will be announced from those participants. Since mid-March, the wellness committee has given out approximately $1000 in wellness incentives. Employees report, although working remotely, they are still feeling connected through these wellness activities. Moreover, receiving a wellness gift delivered right to your door, isn’t too shabby either. A special thanks to Schools Insurance Group (SIG) for providing this generous wellness grant to NCSOS staff. At the beginning of next school year, the wellness committee will be recruiting new members. Look for an e-mail mid-August. Until then, stay healthy, both mentally and physically.
Complete the Census Today to Support Local Schools & Children

Every ten years, the United States attempts to count every person living in our country. Knowing how many people live in our community and where they live helps federal, state, and local leaders plan how to spend billions of dollars in federal funding. Census data impacts programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology
- Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches
- Maternal and child health programs

The 2020 Census will shape our community for the next decade. Please take a few minutes today to ensure our schools have the resources and funding they need to serve our kids.

Take the Census Today

Online: [https://my2020census.gov/](https://my2020census.gov/)

By Phone: 1-844-330-2020

Learn More: [Shaping the Future of Education Video](https://www.NevadaCountyCounts.org) or www.NevadaCountyCounts.org

McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Program

It was a busy year for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Program. New reporting requirements from California Department of Education (CDE) meant some new procedures for all of us, both here at NCSOS and at the district level. We worked collaboratively with other community partners to address the issue of homelessness among Nevada County’s youth and families.

On March 3rd, NCSOS was honored to have Leanne Wheeler, our Homeless Education Consultant from the California Dept. of Education, come up and spend the day with us and our local McKinney-Vento Liaisons. Leanne and her team did a presentation on the Education for Homeless Children and Youth.

The presentation was attended by 20 district and school liaisons. It was a fabulous opportunity for liaisons to ask some deep questions and get answers straight from the CDE. Little did we know it would be the last in-person meeting for the McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Program for the 2019-2020 school year.

We look forward to next year, even though we don’t know exactly what that will look like.

If you have any questions regarding the McKinney-Vento program, feel free to contact either Melissa Parrett mparrett@nevco.org or Charlotte Peterson cpeterson@nevco.org.

**NOTICE:** The annual County-wide PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY 2020 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

Professional Development opportunities will be provided as the new school year unfolds.
PARTNERS Family Resource Centers
By Laura Harter, Program Coordinator

We served over 1500 people this year, in multiple ways. Parents come to us for all kinds of support. We offer referrals and information about resources and can provide access to diapers, clothes, food, and computers.

Each of our sites is a little different in what we offer and currently because of COVID-19 we are available by phone and appointment only. We can create care packages of clothes and direct you to diapers. Our parenting support is available by phone.

Please don’t hesitate to call us to find out how we might assist you. Like always, we are available in the summer, and as we write this we are looking at ways to make our computers available to parents again.

Our 8-week Parenting Education classes are provided by Zoom and have been filling up fast.

Please call us if you are looking for information about any resources or services to support you or your children. If you are struggling to find the support you need, we can help track it down.

- Penn Valley - Katie 530-268-5606 or Laurie 530-278-8257
- Grass Valley – Viki or Karen 530-273-4059
- San Juan Ridge – Diana 530-292-3171
- Facebook – P.A.R.T.N.E.R.S Family Resource Centers
- Services in Español – Rocio 530-268-5317
- Parenting Educator – Annie 530-268-5086
- Coordinator – Laura NCSOS Office 530-478-6400 x2028

NURTURING PARENTING
By Annie Keeling
NCSOS Parenting Specialist

There have been some changes with the NCSOS Parent Education program. Following is an update on the current spring seminar as well as the exciting announcement of our second online seminar for summer!

Parenting Seminar - Spring Update

Taking an unexpected pivot at the start of shelter-in-place, I was able to develop online content from what I had been using for in-person classes. We are in Week 8 of that eight week class and so far it has gone really well.

Participants receive weekly video modules as well as handouts. This material is discussed on a weekly Zoom call. There is lively engagement on the Zoom calls, email questions/discussions, interactions on a private Facebook group, and one-on-one calls for each participating family.

There are a total of 25 enrolled students. The core group consists of 18 parents, with the others getting more one-on-one support rather than classwork and Zoom calls (some have difficulty due to connectivity issues.)

I look forward to their evaluations to find out on a more personal level how this has been for these families.

Parenting Seminar - Upcoming Summer Dates - Enrollment is now open for the next seminar - a 7-week virtual session starting June 2.
National Science Foundation - Our Forests Citizen Science program update  
by Sol Henson, Sierra Streams Institute

Our Forests is an educational program in which 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students work collaboratively with their community to address issues of local forest health and resource management in our unique foothills home. Funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, the collaborative team developing the program includes the Center for Community and Citizen Science (UC Davis), Sierra Streams Institute, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools and classroom teachers from various districts around the county. Top scientists in the fields of forest and fire ecology, local community partners, and seven partner teachers have all contributed to the NGSS-aligned curriculum. The end result will be a robust curriculum that capitalizes on student inquiry and curiosity, and that gets students collecting real-world data! In addition, with our partners at UC Davis, we get to study how students benefit from outdoor, place-based, citizen science education.

As a result of the COVID-19 disruption and school closures, pilot, field, and classroom experiences with four local elementary schools and seven classes were all put on hold this spring. The silver lining of this major setback has been that our collaborative team now has more time to plan the program and hone the curriculum.

The goal now is to pilot the field and classroom programs in the coming year (fingers crossed) and to roll it out to a school near you in 2021-22. For more information you can contact project directors, Annika or Sol, at Sierra Streams Institute- annika@sierrastreams.org or sol@sierrastreams.org

Educationally Speaking

Have something educational & exciting happening at your school?  
In your classroom?  
At your district?  
We want to share it ON THE AIR!!

Educationally Speaking, KVMR’s local radio talk show with hosts Superintendent of Schools, Scott W. Lay and NCSOS Arts Coordinator, Kimberly Ewing invite local students, teachers, and educational leaders in the community to discuss and highlight all things educational. Educationally Speaking is on KVMR every first and third Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. Find KVMR at 89.5 FM or www.kvmr.org

Topics range from local innovation youth projects, Shelter Dogs Foster Youth podcasts, ACME robotics competition, Poetry OutLoud, math, geography, and speech tournament winners, STEAM EXPO, SEL learning, First 5 child development, community service youth projects, the Distance Learning paradigm shift, and so much more!

Email Kimberly, NCSOS Arts Coordinator  
kewing@nevco.org and share.

Educationally Speaking Radio Programs  
LISTEN HERE
Every day I look for the silver lining that outlines the dark and stormy clouds of the past school year. Early on in the school year we experienced, (for the first time in memory), continued school closures due to high winds and the very real risk of regional fires. We lamented that we all were unable to work and unable to serve our community’s children, as is our passion.

Once the high winds left and the rain came in, school was back in session, we rejoiced, and celebrated the students’ return. Teachers and school staff regrouped and focused our efforts on helping students succeed and attain their goals. Life had returned to normal on campus. SELPA continued its commitment to provide best practice training, such as nonviolent crisis intervention training, mentorship and support to our community’s special education programs, and community outreach and awareness.

Then came the pandemic and the historic closures experienced by almost everyone in the country, if not the world. Parents were expected to pick up where the teachers left off and continue their children’s education. Teachers were placed in a position to teach students that were not in class or even on a campus. Initially, guidance from the state and federal governments were lacking, and spotty at best. In all of this confusion, we all recognized the responsibility we had to educate our youth in the community.

I found the silver lining just a few days after the shelter in place orders were announced. In just a few days our local community of educators coalesced and began collaborating on best practices. The Special Education Administrators in our community started meeting weekly, (instead of monthly) to share new information and best practices. Resources were developed for both staff and parents and freely shared. The Community Advisory Council reached out to the community and brought information and solace to families that were struggling with the change. The Superintendents collaborated on their school responses to support their families and provide consistency in a time when the world feels so uncertain.

Here we are in June; the world has yet to return to “normal” and there is no clear understanding of what the new normal will be. What I do know, is that we live in a community of passionate and devoted educators. Each week, as I speak with educators from around the state, I am reminded of what a supportive and collaborative area we live in, (as I often hear how little is being done elsewhere). While I’m not certain of what the future will bring, I am certain that our educators are the best and work tirelessly to teach our youngest community members, no matter what challenges are placed in their way.
Together with the Nevada County Arts Council, NCSOS was one of three county offices awarded a grant to participate in an arts education planning process, in partnership with the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) and the California Alliance for Arts Education. The Arts Council’s survey, done in 2017, a *State of the Arts Instruction in Western Nevada County K-12 in Public Schools*, was a key document in the grant process, as it highlighted the need for more comprehensive arts instruction for students and professional development for educators. This one-year grant allowed us to gather a committee comprised of administrators, educators across the grade-level spans, local artists, local arts agencies, and other committed community members. The committee work on the development of a county-wide comprehensive strategic arts plan to guide increased and improved arts education within our schools, ensuring equity and access for all students. We are excited that the 5-year Strategic Arts Plan received full support from the Nevada County Board of Education.

With the California Department of Education rolling out the NEW California Arts Standards in early 2019, Nevada County had a stellar year of embracing and expanding in the arts.

**The Art Docent Program** reached over 1000 students, grades K-6 and was in four local school districts.

**Poetry Outloud**, a national poetry recitation competition, reached more high schools than ever this year!

**Student Voices Campaign**, a California-based video contest for middle and high school students, was highly represented from Nevada Union High School with 3 out of the 7 finalists.

Nevada County Arts Council’s ARTISTS in SCHOOLS, local, professional teaching artists came into classrooms of elementary school students, served and shared the talents in visual arts to over a thousand students county-wide and some even adapted to Distance Learning and offered ONLINE art classes.
Arts—continued from page 10

**Educationally Speaking,** a KVMR radio talk show with hosts, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Scott W. Lay and NCSD teacher / NCSOS Arts Coordinator Kimberly Ewing, broadcasts every first and third Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm—89.5FM or [www.kvmr.org](http://www.kvmr.org)

**ARTS IN OUR SCHOOLS,** an ARTS resources link provides local ARTS events, programs, concerts, arts contests, arts-integrated lesson plans, and most recently, Distance Learning lesson plans using the Arts!

(link above)

**YOUNG AT ART,** the largest youth visual arts exhibit in the county, displayed annually at the Eric Rood Center, had the biggest turnout yet with more schools, grades and artistic styles represented. (Photo insert)

In conjunction with Nevada County Arts Council, CCSESA, and CAC, **NCSOS’ Education and Instruction Team** developed a county-wide Strategic Arts Education Plan with local stakeholders including students, teachers, parents, arts organization members, school, administrators and the like.
It’s time to sign up for the 2020-2021 school year. For more information please contact Kimberly Ewing kewing@nevco.org

Summary of Arts Education Programs:
2019-2020 Here
Offering local, state, and national arts programs countywide, grades K-12. Learn More Here

To learn more about Music in the Mountains Free Virtual Offerings Go To: MUSIC
**NCSOS Fond Farewells—Retirement**

**Diana Ely - Support Services Secretary**  
**Earle Jamieson Educational Options**  
**Sugarloaf Mountain High School**

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the retirement of Diana Ely, an employee of 21 years of service to the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. Throughout Diana’s employment she has worked in the business office, as secretary, coordinated summer recreation programs for students in the park, coordinated grants and events, and ending her career working as the office manager and secretary of Earle Jamieson Alternative Educational Options and Sugarloaf Mountain High School. It is bittersweet to see her go as she will be leaving a void that has taken years of experience to master. Her attention to detail is captured in the work she does and leaves little room for error. Diana will be greatly missed!

What’s next for Diana? She is looking forward to the next chapter in her life and plans on spending more time with family, working in her garden, and most of all with her new grandson. Diana has modeled a commitment to excellence, something that we have grown to depend on. Thank you Diana for your dedication and years of service working for Nevada County Superintendent of Schools.

**Wendy Cerrona**  
**Foster Youth Tutor + Case Mgr.**

For the past 24 years, Wendy Cerrona has been a devoted tutor and advocate to thousands of Nevada County foster youth. Her amazing skill as a tutor spanned all grade levels and touched every school in the county. Her gentle demeanor, insight into traumatized children, and love for education has brought grace and guidance into navigating the complex and sometimes challenging world of educating our most vulnerable students. Wendy will be missed greatly by her many students and colleagues!

We wish her the best life can offer in her retirement.

**Kim Lerch - Paraeducator**  
**Special Ed.**

Kim has been supporting students in the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Special Education programs for nearly 12 years.

During that time, Kim has worked with students ranging in age from 3 to 14 years old. Kim has a kind heart and a strong sense of empathy for our students and families. In recent years, Kim has worked as a health aide, supporting one of our young students recently diagnosed with diabetes. Kim has been a value to so many of our students and families and is well deserving of an enjoyable retirement.

Thank you, Kim, for all that you have done. Your hard work and dedication has been appreciated.

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 [The Nugget Back Issues](#).
CARING FOR OUR WATERSHEDS - SAEL Students Rise to the Top

Sierra Academy of Expeditionary Learning students Grace Gallup and Emily Onken placed in the top 10 in the 2020 Caring for Our Watersheds contest. Each student finalist will receive a cash prize (top 10 Finalists split $6000 in cash rewards). The team also won $600 for their school. In addition, the students are eligible for up to $1000 to implement their project.

READ FULL PRESS RELEASE HERE

Free and Reduced Meals Program Eligibility & Guidelines

- For eligibility scales: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/rs/scales2021.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/rs/scales2021.asp)
- For summer meal information: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/sh/sn/summersites.asp)
- For additional information, please visit: [https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/index.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/sn/index.asp)

MORE INFORMATION HERE

Submissions for future Nugget issues:

Have you something to share in future issues of The Nugget?

Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month for inclusion in the following issue.

Email: sshafran@nevco.org

Previous editions of The Nugget and are listed in chronological order.

Back issues of The Nugget be found at The Nugget Back Issues.
We send our best wishes to you and yours.

Stay safe - Stay well.