

News from the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools office

May 2021

Scott W. Lay, Superintendent

Foster Youth Reaches FAFSA Application Goal

We, Nevada County, were the first round winner of the 20-21 school year FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) challenge with 100% of foster youth in the county completing their FAFSA application. Meaning that all of our seniors, first year college students and returning college students who are in foster care completed the FAFSA for 20-21 school year. We make it a high priority in ILP to complete the FAFSA regardless of the student's immediate plan so they can be well equipped with college resources including but not limited to financial aid. This is our 2nd year winning for small rural county in California. We take pride in assisting our students with their college path. We stay up to date on FAFSA trainings annually so we can stay prepared to meet their needs.

We just completed our Youth in Placement Action Team (YPAT) meeting with 25 participants including students and Nevada County CASA, probation, Child welfare services, Earle Jamison Educational Options, NCSOS administration, EA Family services and the Foster youth Services staff. We had a mentor lead the meeting from start to finish and allowed the forum for students to talk directly to the professionals serving their needs. The topics they chose were "Foster youth in Education: What's working and what can we improve?" "Foster home Placements: What's working and what can we improve?" Lastly, "The effects of Covid-19 on foster youth." Needless to say, it was a powerful two-hour meeting with crucial data that will be shared state wide as well as at in home at Nevada County. This is an annual class that we continue to cherish for the sheer vulnerability that our students display and we hope, as in the years past, that we can take this valuable information and make changes where change is needed.

We are working closely with Unity Care to brainstorm creative ways to help house our young people. As well as continuing to work with CalWORKS and Alliance for Workforces' development TAY program to support our young people with employment services.

We also had a community member generously sell a reliable car for \$0.01 to one of our former foster youth who has relocated with his beautiful family back to Nevada County. This was a great relief to the newlyweds and their two children after renting a car for several weeks so he could get to and from work. We are happy to have folks in our community who are willing when able to gift items to our young people.



Student Enrichment

Food Access Saturday

Next month, Food Access Saturday will celebrate its fourth anniversary. This program is developed and implemented in collaboration with Interfaith Food Ministry was borne out of a desire to support low-income working families, students, and seniors by offering food assistance the second Saturday of each month at Interfaith Food Ministry located at 440 Henderson Street, Grass Valley, CA (next to The Beam Easy Living Center).

Nevada County relies heavily on a low wage, service-based workforce, when combined with the area's high cost of living. These hardworking individuals and families struggle to get by and are forced to make difficult decisions. Supporting these valued members of our community with groceries is a simple act that alleviates some of the financial pressure they experience. We encourage anyone who could benefit from the program to please visit the distribution center. You can find more information about the Food Pantry program and United Way of Nevada County's other programs at uwnc.org, and Interfaith Food Ministry, at interfaithfoodministry.org.

Artists in Schools Visual Art Lessons

Please check out more ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS arts-integrated visual art lessons coming in May. Catered towards grades K-6 and professionally filmed visual arts lessons for your students!

Lessons can be located here: <https://tinyurl.com/Artists-in-Schools>

Teen Community Emergency Response Team

With wildfire season fast approaching many organizations are getting ready. One of those organizations is the Teen Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The Teen CERT program is overseen by NCSOS and plays a vital role in high school disaster readiness. This year with more schools opening, and more staff and students vaccinated, the Teen CERT program hopes to pick back up the training for students. Read the full article on myNevadaCounty.com

High School Food Pantry Program

As the result of a collaborative effort between United Way of Nevada County, Interfaith Food Ministry, and the Nevada Joint Union High School District, Nevada County's first high school campus food pantry was established on the Nevada Union campus in February 2020. The pantry was set within a former classroom and students were able to "shop" for items.

In its initial four weeks, participation increased from 7 students to 70 plus students each week. What was initially planned as a distribution of food to students in need turned into a group of young adults empowered to take care of themselves, their families, and loved ones.

When the COVID-19 Pandemic struck, the program was expanded to the Silver Springs and Bear River campuses and became mobile with distributions in parking lots coinciding with each school lunch distribution. The initial expansion was funded by grants received from the Nevada County Relief Fund.

This program is continuing to evolve with expanded distribution sites beyond high school campuses. With a goal to make support food assistance available to students and families struggling throughout the county, we work with each site to develop a plan that meets their unique needs. Whether it's an onsite "store" for students to shop, a pantry with prepacked grocery bags that school staff can access, a drive-through pick up in the parking lot, or somewhere in-between, we want to work with a site to support a program that meets their unique needs.

Current sites include:

Nevada Union High School

Bear River High School

Silver Springs High School

The HangOut

Grass Valley School District Central Kitchen

Quick Reference Calendar

May Dates to Remember

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Tuesday, May 4, 2021	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: TBD	6:30PM
Monday, May 10, 2021	Homeless Education (McKinney-Vento) Meeting	1PM-2:30PM
Tuesday, May 11, 2021	KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with hosts Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing Topic: TBD	6:30PM
Tuesday, May 25, 2021	Math & Science Community of Practice Monthly Meeting	3:30PM-5PM

Future Dates to Remember

Learn to Debate Fridays 4/23-5/28 with the Nevada Union High School Debate Team

All interested 7th and 8th-grade students welcome! RSVP: jamiehogenson@gmail.com

Develop your public speaking skills, construct better arguments, learn about current events, and connect with the Nevada Union Debate Team. Come see if competitive debate is for you! Join us on Fridays from 4/23 to 5/28 on Zoom 3:00 to 4:00 PM COST: Free! All interested 7th and 8th-grade students welcome!

- * **June 4th—11th, 2021:** Last days of current school year . Please visit our [School Calendars](#) webpage for more information.



Submissions for future Nugget issues:

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

Email: sromriell@nevco.org Back issues of *The Nugget* be found at [The Nugget Newsletter](#).