In the month of March, our very own local leaders were proudly recognized by their peers as the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Region 2 Administrators of the Year.

“One of ACSA’s priorities is to ensure that school leaders are recognized for their excellence. Through the annual awards program, students, administrators, and community organizations are honored for their achievements and their dedication to public education at both the regional and state levels.”

Thomas Bivens of Alta Sierra Elementary School of the Pleasant Ridge District received the Region 2 Elementary Principal of the Year award. His commitment to his school and community is evident in the hours he dedicates to them each day. Students know him from his almost constant prowling of the campus and constant interaction with them. They can always count on a positive encouraging remark accompanied by a smile, and humorous pun. His immersion in the community is an example to his staff and his leadership and dedication has led his school out of program improvement.

Carolyn Cramer of Clear Creek School District received the Region 2 Superintendent/Principal of the Year award. Carolyn is a masterful educational leader for her team. Her extensive knowledge of the programs coupled with her effective communication practices has earned her the respect and friendship of her Clear Creek team. Through extensive training and material developments, Carolyn has the distinction of being one of the few schools in Nevada County to fully open their school to in-person learning from the first day of school in August 2020, until the last day of June 2021.

Teena Corker, Associate Superintendent of Education Services at Nevada County Superintendent of Schools received the Region 2 Curriculum and Instruction Administrator of the Year. She is motivated not only by student success, but also through the development of our local educational leaders. She is a constant support to her staff as well as staff throughout the county. Teena is passionate about the continued success of our educational leaders as she regularly holds Principals meetings to facilitate growth and collegiality.

Scott W. Lay, Nevada County Superintendent of Schools, received the Region 2 Superintendent of the Year award. Scott’s positive attitude, personal code of ethics, and commitment to students has transformed the role to be a beacon of stability and expertise. Our local community has come to rely on his steadfastness during this tumultuous year. He has been relentless in his efforts to appropriately promote the success of all students despite the numerous roadblocks educators in Nevada County have endured.

Please give a round of applause to our Region 2 Administrators of the Year and be sure to congratulate them when you see them!
Teacher Who Makes a Difference

Maya Angelou said, “To make a difference is not a matter of accident, a matter of casual occurrence of the tides. People choose to make a difference.”

This year, we would like to recognize the Nevada County Teacher Who Makes a Difference.

Brendan Cariaga, or Mr. C, as he’s affectionately known, brings an infectious energy to the Adapted Physical Education sessions he facilitates on behalf of students throughout Nevada County. His unmistakable energy motivates the most hesitant of learners and allows students to engage in an individually meaningful manner. Students readily jump at the opportunity to work with Mr. C, likely due to his caring nature and his fun-loving personality!

As an educational leader, Mr. C prioritizes inclusive practices and effortlessly weaves social emotional and communication support into his lessons, ensuring that students can participate to the best of their ability. He is a thoughtful collaborator with general and special education staff, ensuring that ALL students have an opportunity to grow alongside one another. He is passionate about inclusivity and its wide-ranging impact on our community at large. Lastly, Mr. C believes in empowering all members of a student’s IEP team to drive ongoing student success.

Mr. C, thank you for actively choosing to make a difference in the lives of countless students!

People of Action

In March, the Rotary District 5190 and Western Nevada County Rotary Club hosted a People of Action awards night, honoring our local police and fire departments, educators, medical professionals and grocery workers.

Included in the awards was Chris Espedal, Director of Safety for Nevada County Superintendent of Schools. Chris was recognized for her dedication and hard work she puts in daily for our Nevada County Schools.

We are so very proud and honored to work with a truly valued member of the community.

Thank you, Chris, for all you do for the schools and staff. This was a very well deserved award.
This month, teachers at Union Hill Elementary and Union Hill Middle School are completing a third peer-to-peer observation cycle focused on implementing Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

Each teaching team (grade levels for kindergarten through 5th and subject areas for 6-8) developed a common problem of practice to narrow the discussion on how to meet the needs of all students by removing barriers to instruction. Areas of focus included reading attack skills, citing textual evidence in writing, self-monitoring, collaborative activities, and sustaining effort on rigorous academic tasks.

After teams identified a problem of practice, they used the UDL Guidelines to plan a lesson together that incorporated at least one UDL strategy connected to a selected UDL checkpoint intended to remove barriers to learning. For example, the 6-8 grade ELA team focused on checkpoint 8.3 (foster collaboration and community) while designing a lesson that integrated scaffolds for effective collaborative discussions.

During each peer-to-peer observation cycle, observation cycle, one member of each grade level team volunteers to teach the lesson while the other team members observe and take descriptive notes on what students say and do connected to the problem of practice.

After the lesson, team members debrief according to protocols outlined by Tonya Ward Singer in Opening Doors to Equity. They share observations, look for patterns, form generalizations, and discuss ways to replicate successes and to address remaining challenges. This learning informs development of the next lesson, continuing the Plan-Do-Study-Act cycle.

Principal Joe Limov shared, “The UDL Peer-to-Peer Observation process provides opportunities at multiple levels. First and foremost it provides an opportunity to focus on improved instruction specifically targeted on overcoming barriers for all students. Second, staff raise their level of commitment to the collaboration process working as grade level/subject specific teams to address barriers to learning. Third, it validates the importance of a school wide culture focused on improving the teaching and learning cycle.”

Chris Thibodeau (3rd grade) is a NCSoS instructional coach who supports the Nevada County Network Improvement Community UDL Project. Shelley Gorin (5th grade) and Melanie Gray (2nd grade) have participated in the project for multiple years and are now teacher leaders who guide cross-county cohorts. These leaders, along with five additional UDL project members from Union Hill, have built capacity at the site, supporting the Bearcat staff with integration of UDL strategies into the classroom.

Results in the classrooms are exciting. The first grade team found that teacher modeling and review of reading attack skills led to most students correctly identifying which skill to apply and doing so successfully when decoding a text. In addition, students demonstrated metacognition when verbalizing which strategies to use. While celebrating these successes, the team also looks to the future; they plan to increase rigor through use of more challenging texts and to and to explicitly develop an “intake process” for new students to help them develop a common language connected to the strategies.

Union Hill’s intentional focus on using the UDL guidelines and PDSA cycle to implement a system of continuous improvement has helped remove barriers for all students. Thomas McAtee, middle school math teacher and NIC UDL project member, shares, “When I began participating in the UDL county program three years ago, UDL was a foreign concept that sounded more like my toddler trying to say the alphabet than a practical teaching tool. In my second year with the county program, as well as participating in a Union Hill cohort this year, I have come to realize the UDL is all about making teachers better educators by eliminating barriers that happen inevitably in a classroom. More importantly, I have found that by becoming a better educator, my students have become better students, leading to more success for them in the classroom that will follow them for years to come. UDL has become a valuable tool that is now embedded in every moment of my instruction.” This reflective mindset and commitment to students changes schools and moves us one step closer to equity in education.

For more information on the Nevada County Network Improvement UDL project or Peer-to-Peer Observations, contact Andrea Marks at amarks@nevco.org.
This month, Foster Youth Services has been planning the upcoming, "Raise Them Up" discovery fair and appreciation lunch, working closely with Child Welfare Services, Sierra Stanford Youth & Families, an ILP Youth mentor, Twin Cities Church, and the ILP Youth ambassador. This event is for foster, Kincare and adoptive families, prospective foster parents, and transition aged foster youth.

While recruiting agencies in Nevada County to vendor service booths, we have been met with excitement and kindness. Please remember to join us May 14th from 10am to 2pm at Twin Cities Church for fun, food, community and more. We are asking the schools to promote to the target populations above and to help us recruit new foster parents by inviting them to this event. Please post the flyer in your front office or other means such as your school newsletter or weekly announcements. WE NEED FOSTER HOMES!!!!!

The annual meeting, led by youth in placement, gathered information about system changes they would like to see as well as things that work well. The meeting was well attended and provided informed data for the System of Care to review and use.

The Transitional Housing Plus program was able to assist a consumer with a comfortable and safe move out of state. THP+ participants have been accessing Housing Choice Vouchers from HUD. We are continuing to engage homeowners who are willing to work with motivated and passionate case managers, HUD, and young people for sustainable housing. If you are one of these homeowners or know someone who would like more information about perks for the landlord, please reach out to the THP+ case manager at 530-478-6400 ex 2040.

The Youth Action Board met to de-brief the recent Youth Point in Time Count. There was plenty of discussion about how we can streamline the process next year during the count. The Youth Action Board members will be attending the Raise Them Up fair and available for discussion on the process and planning to continue addressing youth homelessness.

If you're a person raising a family member, please join us monthly for a Kincare support group. The calendar can be found here Post Adopt Flyers (nevco.org).

Educationally Speaking is a bi-monthly radio talk show on KMVR 89.5 with hosts Superintendent, Scott W. Lay and Kimberly Ewing. Featuring teachers, students, and Nevada County community members discussing various topics and themes.

We would love to have you and your teachers/students on the show, showcasing and sharing out. Send Kimberly an email with your topic or event at: kewing@nevco.org.
FREE • FAIR • FOOD • FUN

RAISE THEM UP!

Foster Youth Services & Child Welfare Services

Satruday
MAY 14
10am-2pm
Twin Cities Church
11726 Rough & Ready Hwy.
Grass Valley

CARNIVAL GAMES!
REPTILES!

Especially for
Foster, Kincare & Adoptive Families,
Prospective Foster Parents & ILP Students

DISCOVERY FAIR & APPRECIATION LUNCH

Especially for Foster, Kincare & Adoptive Families,
Prospective Foster Parents & ILP Students
# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 3, 2022</td>
<td>KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay, Kim Ewing and special guests</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 5, 2022</td>
<td>Basic Plus CPR, AED, Adult</td>
<td>3:45 — 5:45 PM</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click to register</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 9, 2022</td>
<td>Principal’s Meeting</td>
<td>8:00 AM — 9:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, May 14, 2022</td>
<td>Raise Them Up—Discovery Fair &amp; Appreciation Lunch</td>
<td>10:00 AM — 2:00 PM</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click here for more info</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 17, 2022</td>
<td>Pediatric Plus CPR, AED, First Aid for Child/Infant/Adult</td>
<td>3:45 — 5:45 PM</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click to register</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 17, 2022</td>
<td>KVMR 89.5 Radio Show with Hosts: Scott Lay, Kim Ewing and special guests</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 19, 2022</td>
<td>Nevada County Indian Education—Family Night</td>
<td>6:00 PM — 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>(Free event for Indian Education families)</td>
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<td><a href="#">Click here for more info</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, May 30, 2022</td>
<td>Memorial Day Holiday</td>
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**Submissions for future Nugget issues:**

**Please submit your request by the 15th of the preceding month.** Not all content received will be published as approval will be required for publication.

Email: [ocarson@nevco.org](mailto:ocarson@nevco.org)  Prior issues of *The Nugget* can be found [here](#).