



CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS

PROMOTE | INFLUENCE | ADVOCATE



TAKE 5 BRIGHT SPOTS & PROMISING PRACTICES
OCTOBER 2023

Take 5! is a monthly spotlight of *promising practices* happening at county offices of education throughout the state, rotating the five that are featured and the focus areas covered. You can view past *bright spots* by clicking the link at the bottom of this page. The map coordinates with the location of the stories featured this month from across our state.

1

Multi-Agency Community Task Force Introduces Fentanyl Awareness Campaigns

The Yuba County Office of Education formed a Fentanyl Task Force last year and its efforts are making a difference in their community. The Yuba County Fentanyl Task Force, composed of multiple agencies working in a united effort, was developed as a result of a partnership with Yuba County Health and Human Services, which helped acquire a \$100,000 grant to provide opioid awareness and education to the community. Awareness campaigns will appear through billboards, bus signage and school presentations to educate the public on the dangers of fentanyl abuse and how to distribute and administer naloxone.

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2

Student Paid to Learn in First-of-its-Kind Apprentices Program

Apprenticeships Reaching Career Horizons (ARCH) is a first-of-its-kind program of the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE). Students can earn college credits and receive on-the-job-training in paid positions as a state-registered apprentice. ARCH is

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coordinated by SJCOE's College and Career Readiness department, and made possible through a California Apprenticeship Initiative grant from the California Community College Chancellor's office. Carter Lacey was recently recognized as the first student to complete a state-registered high school apprenticeship program in the state. Lacey, who currently attends Stanislaus State, was a junior at Ripon High School when he first entered the program in 2020. Apprenticeship programs registered with the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards are highly structured, require a long-term commitment, and must meet requirements to maintain the highest level of work-based learning.



Preparing Students for the World Ahead Through Paid Internships

For over 10 years, the **Santa Barbara County Education Office** has operated a nonprofit called "Partners in Education". They empower students for the world ahead through business, school, and community collaboration by creating and supporting inspiring, skill-building opportunities for youth along their TK-12 journey through paid internships to high school students in businesses around the county. The LEA pays half the salary and the business pays the other half, while the insurance and fingerprinting is all conducted by the county office of education.

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Equity and Inclusion

The **Riverside County Office of Education** held their 2nd Annual LEGO Fun Fair—a collaboration of its Special Education and Educational Technology Services teams. Centered around a shared love for LEGO, and as an example of their Equity & Inclusive Practices Initiative in action, the free event aimed to create a sense of belonging, boost participant self-confidence, and deepen understanding of

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the differences of others. The event brought smiles to students, family members, volunteers, and staff who participated.



Drug-Prevention Education Video Series

The San Diego County Office of Education launched a new drug-prevention video series to provide young people with information about the dangers of drugs and drug misuse. The *I Choose My Future* series includes tools and resources to help them choose a future without drugs as it explores the impacts of drug misuse on the developing brain; explains the dangers of vaping, marijuana, opioids, fentanyl, and other drugs; and provides strategies for handling peer pressure and getting help. In San Diego County, there were more than 1,300 drug overdose deaths in 2022, a high percentage of which were from fentanyl. The video series was created for educators to use in the classroom, enabling more schools and students to hear the important messages about identifying dangerous drugs, drug misuse, and tips for handling peer pressure. Parents and caregivers also can use these resources to help them talk with their students.

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