



# The Superintendent's Update

April 5, 2013

## NEWS FROM KELLY

**School Resource Officers Receive CUSD Superintendent's Award:** At the March 27, 2013, CUSD Board Meeting, the School Resource Officers that work daily in our schools were presented with the Superintendent's Award. Currently three SRO's are assigned by the Chico Police Department to work with our school staffs, students and families. Those three officers have a tremendous impact on our school sites from safe school planning and prevention work, to positive interventions, to emergency work in crisis situations. While headquartered at the high schools, the SRO work directly with the feeder schools and wherever else their support is needed. Please join me in thanking [Don Finkbiner](#) (PVHS and feeder schools), [Carlos Jauregui](#) (FVHS and all site support) and [Cameron Kovacs](#) (CHS and feeder schools) for their work in our schools. Thank you also to Chico Police Lt. [Matt Madden](#), Captain [Lori MacPhail](#), and Chief [Kirk Trostle](#) for their support of the SRO program.



**Donor's Choose:** CUSD is fortunate to have many wonderful supporters and volunteers as well as some very dedicated corporate sponsors. PG&E is one such corporate sponsor that gives back to our schools in a variety of ways. Currently, PG&E is contributing matching funds to CUSD Donor's Choose projects. To date they have distributed over \$25,000 to school projects throughout our county. Thank you PG&E for your continued support of education in Butte County. I would also encourage staff and community members to visit the Donor's Choose website at: [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org) to see if there are school projects you might be interested in supporting:

## NEWS FROM EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

**Spelling Bee Champions:** Congratulations to the Butte County Spelling Bee Champion Miles Jackson!! Miles is a student at Neal Dow Elementary School and we are all very proud of his accomplishment! In addition, [Bianca Jones](#), from Parkview was the 2nd place Spelling Bee winner. Congratulations to both Miles and Bianca for their extremely hard in preparing for the Spelling Bee as clearly they were both very formidable contestants. CUSD wishes them both great success as they move to the state level competition!

**New Teachers Meeting:** The third quarterly new teachers meeting was held Wednesday, April 3. Elementary teachers met in the Large Conference Room at the District Office. Chico Unified Math coaches [Robert Preston](#) and [Beth Sarcona](#) provided professional development for Mathematics instruction for the new elementary teachers. The secondary teachers met in the Pleasant Valley High School Library. They discussed the four key questions for a Professional Learning Community and how those were being answered at their individual school sites. Chico Junior Principal [Pedro Caldera](#) and Assistant Principal [Jessica Kamph](#) also gave the new teachers a presentation about helping students avoid gangs.

**District Wide Meetings:** The third and final district wide meeting for the 2012-2013 school year was held on Wednesday, March 27. Teachers participated in meetings at multiple locations around the district. Elementary teacher meetings focused on results from the most recent Student Progress Assessments and working together to create a common writing rubric to address the Common Core writing expectations. The secondary meetings focused primarily on transitioning to the Common Core and how all teachers can support this shift.

**Preparing Students for College and Careers:** Forty-five teachers from Chico High, Pleasant Valley High, and Inspire completed their final cycle of the College Prepared Project (CPP). Through peer observations, coaching, and facilitated work on lesson design and instructional strategies, they worked on their own learning as adults, and on building capacity to design and deliver the rigorous instruction needed to help students succeed in college and careers. The following teachers have taken part in this work, some over one year and some over two:

- Jason Alvistur
- Karen Armstrong
- Jenelle Ball
- Jacqui Windsor
- Cindy Triffo
- Kevin Girt
- Carol Heald
- Beth Johnson
- Gina Snider
- Gale Morgan
- Jennifer Salas
- Kate Ginno
- Kris Hahn
- Allison Schroll
- Keith Rollins
- Joe Asnault
- Jill VanDerHeiden
- Ken Frisbee
- Vallerie Jensen
- Anne Henkel
- Kirk Bruchler
- Ray Barber
- Lee Anne Calhoon
- Linda Elliott
- Ton George
- Christine Callas
- Deanna Holen
- Brett Silva
- Charlie Copeland
- Christina Fisher
- Stefanie Volk
- Erinn Gulbrandson
- Reta Rickmers
- Cindy Hopkins
- Beth Burton
- Randy Gilzean
- Mike Brooks
- Stephanie Starmer
- Connie Chrysler-Anderson
- Marcelle Gregoire
- John Klein
- Scott Gunderson
- Debbie Travers
- Beth Reid
- Becky Anker
- Danielle Alexich

Many thanks to these teachers, as well as to [Brian Boyer](#), [Deanna Holen](#), and [Mike Morris](#) for their ongoing facilitation of the observations.

**Charter School Visits:** The Chico Unified Charter School Committee has started the annual process of visiting the seven charter schools authorized by Chico Unified. The Committee (Bob Feaster, Liz Metzger, Janet Brinson, Joanne Parsley, Mike Morris, Dave Scott, Pete Van Buskirk and John Bohannon) has already sent site visit teams to Forest Ranch Charter School, Sherwood Montessori, Nord Country School and The Blue Oak School. In April, the committee will visit Chico Country Day School, Inspire School of the Arts and Sciences and Wildflower Open Classroom.

**Grants in the Works:** Thanks to Fran Anderson, Janet Brinson, Liz Metzger, and Paul Watters from Butte County ROP for their input and support on a grant to the US Department of Labor for YouthBuild. If awarded, this grant would establish a program for youth 16-24 who had dropped out of school, allowing them to complete a GED or earn a diploma while also learning construction skills in Fair View's construction lab and by building a home for low-income families in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Special thanks also goes to Jerry Joiner, who is proof positive that a person can retire from teaching but continue to put in long hours making things better for students.

Carol Lams, Tanya Harter, Janet Brinson, and Liz Metzger are also currently applying for a Farm-to-School implementation grant. This grant would build on the district's current Farm-to-School planning grant, which aims to increase the amount of locally sourced produce served in school cafeterias, as well as helping students better understand nutrition and healthy eating.

**After-School Programs Summer Intersession:** Elementary and junior high after-school programs are planning for summer intersession, which will run for 4.5 hours a day from June 11-28. Parents should expect to see applications coming home soon. These programs will operate at current after school sites: Rosedale, Citrus, McManus, Neal Dow, Parkview, Chapman, Bidwell, and Chico Junior

## NEWS FROM MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS / FACILITIES / NUTRITION SERVICES

**Here Comes Summertime!** It may be raining still, but summer is just around the corner. M&O is beginning to gear up for the heat. Our HVAC techs are doing routine maintenance on units throughout the district in preparation for the air conditioners to start up. As always, we are looking to become more efficient and effective in our use of electricity. A/C units are obviously a large contributor to that expense. Here are some of the things you can do to help us reduce our usage. Open the doors and windows in the morning when the outside air is cool. When the outside air begins to warm-up, and the a/c unit turns on, keep all doors and windows closed. If you do have cooling issues in your room, report it to the office so they can submit a work order. We ask that you please be patient with us. We only have two HVAC techs and they will have an enormous workload in the beginning. We are working on ways to help them out so they can get your area up and running as quickly as possible. Another thing that helps is to turn lights off in the room when no one is in there. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**PVHS:** Thank you to Luke Steinberg for his oversight of the removal of the damaged gym floor at PVHS. The project is moving right on along and our goal is for the gym to be repaired and ready for students at the start of the 2013-14 school year.



**Farm to School Blossoms at CUSD:** Rosedale and Citrus After School Program (ASP) Garden Coordinator, [Flo Hamilton](#), had a dream. She wanted her students to have a better understanding of where their food comes from and how it is grown. She worked with [Quinn Mendez](#), CHS Ag Teacher, and arranged to have the elementary students grow their starts in the CHS greenhouse. They then brought their starts back to their school to transplant when the weather was right. During this stage they learned facts about what a seed needs to thrive and the importance of soil and as they transplanted, they practiced math skills by measuring how far apart their plants should be and noted how many inches they grew. They also learned how to harvest the leaves properly to allow the plant to continue to produce food and after harvesting, they learned how to wash the butterhead lettuce leaves to ensure their safety for consumption. The final step was to proudly serve these leaves on their school garden bar on Wednesday, April 3. This is just one example of the Farm to School efforts and to show their support for the program, a special visit was paid by [Vince Enserro](#) and [Tanya Harter](#) who worked with the Rosedale Gardeners teaching them the importance of food safety, sanitation, procurement, and presentation. A great day was had by all.

In addition, a new relationship with [Sherri Scott](#), GRUB Grown Nursery, is blossoming. Sherri has been the ASP Garden Coordinator at the Dorothy F. Johnson Center for the last three years. Thanks to the Farm to School grant, we have been able to buy starts directly from her to plant in our school gardens, and her technical assistance has been invaluable while a Coordinated Garden Plan is being drafted.

One of the goals of Farm to School is to link what is being served in the cafeteria to what is being grown in the school gardens. [Carol Lams](#), Farm to School Coordinator, met with Sherri to discuss the new school meal pattern regulations and what vegetables fall under the various required subgroups: Dark Green, Red/Orange, Beans/Peas, Starchy and Other. As more nutritious vegetables are being served to the students, the goal is that they will recognize some of them in their school gardens. This will be helpful in planning future crops for use in the cafeteria. If you would like to read more about school lunch regulations, Harvest of the Month or school meals, check out the Nutrition Services' web site at: <http://www.schoolnutritionandfitness.com/index.php?sid=0202111927441562>.



**Nutrition Services:** We have had an exciting last two weeks: 1) Our new lunch menu kicked off with all new entree choices. One of our big new items for this menu cycle is "Smoothies" and so far this week they have been very popular; 2) Our National School Breakfast Week winners received their bikes and



digital cameras; 3) The after-school gardens are in full swing. We had the chance to harvest butter leaf and red leaf lettuce with the students from Rosedale on April 3, which was bunches of fun, and the lettuce that was harvested was served on the garden bar for all the Rosedale students to enjoy; and 4) We are also hard at work finalizing the details for this year's Summer Feeding Program. All in all the last two weeks have been jam packed with excitement. We are looking forward to all the new doors that are opening for our department.

## NEWS FROM BUSINESS SERVICES

**Spring Break Clerical Mini-Conference Assessment:** The Business Services department sponsored a Clerical Mini-Conference on March 19, 2013. This conference was designed and presented by CUSD Classified employees—an excellent example of peer tutoring in action. Twenty-one participants enhanced their understanding of Aeries queries and reports, presented by Central Attendance Clerk, [Jennifer McCall](#). Payroll Coordinators, [Jeanette Kapellas](#) and [Corinne Carter](#), discussed the best practices for payroll processing. Account Technician, [Lynne Koll](#), Administrative Assistant [Bev Patrick](#), and Assistant Superintendent Business Services [Maureen Fitzgerald](#), provided detailed information about account coding and budget reports in the Escape Program. In the afternoon, CUSD Computer Technician, [Lori Sullivan](#), helped our attendees discover how they could use Microsoft Excel and Word to help manage the topics that were discussed during the morning sessions. She created several electronic forms to help our clerical staff manage paper flow more efficiently. This event was a voluntary training for Office Managers and other clerical employees. Participants were engaged throughout the entire day, collaborating and sharing information, questions and comments in connection with the conference topics. Although participants possessed a variety of skill levels with Microsoft Office programs, it was encouraging to see those with more experience assist in the learning process by “buddying up” with those with less experienced. As a follow-up to this unique training, clerical employees will participate in a survey designed to create possible future trainings and seminars—and they are even discussing starting their own Clerical PLC—an excellent idea! **Thank you** to the trainers as well as to the participants below:

<u>Participants</u>		<u>Trainers</u>
• <a href="#">Jan Alonzo</a> , Emma Wilson	• <a href="#">Charlotte Mallory</a> , PVHS	• <a href="#">Corinne Carter</a>
• <a href="#">Carol Burns</a> , FVHS	• <a href="#">Bonnie McCarthy</a> , DO	• <a href="#">Jeanette Kapellas</a>
• <a href="#">Robin Carriere</a> , CHS	• <a href="#">Denise McKeon</a> , BJHS	• <a href="#">Lynne Koll</a>
• <a href="#">Jana Gosselin</a> , Inspire	• <a href="#">Tami Medearis</a> , Rosedale	• <a href="#">Jen McCall</a>
• <a href="#">Marcy Goulart</a> , DO	• <a href="#">Alana Meline</a> , MJHS	• <a href="#">Bev Patrick</a>
• <a href="#">Dee Gudmundson</a> , Citrus	• <a href="#">Rocio Montenegro</a> , Parkview	
• <a href="#">Lauri Henry</a> , Shasta	• <a href="#">Lynn Rappa</a> , CJHS	<b>Supervisors:</b>
• <a href="#">Kathy Hill</a> , PVHS	• <a href="#">Hildi Strandberg</a> , Loma Vista	• <a href="#">Maureen Fitzgerald</a>
• <a href="#">Polly Jonsson</a> , Transportation	• <a href="#">Marilyn Tritt</a> , DO	• <a href="#">Pete VanBuskirk</a>
• <a href="#">Mary Kemp</a> , DO	• <a href="#">Linda Fillerup</a> , DO	
• <a href="#">Joe Loomis</a> , DO		

**2013-14 Benefit Enrollment:** The benefit packets for 2013/14 are still being decided and designed. The good news is that medical, dental, and vision enrollments will be done online this year. Christy Patterson, BSSP, successfully used the online enrollment for other districts last year. When you do get your packets, instructions on how to go online and access the enrollment software will be included. Payroll, HR, and IT staff are planning ways to help employees access the program at the DO.

## NEWS FROM HUMAN RESOURCES

**CUTA Negotiations:** The parties remain in mediation with respect to bargaining for the **2012/13 year**. We have had four sessions with our State appointed mediator thus far.

The District and CUTA bargaining teams have met four times regarding negotiations for the **2013/14 year**. Wages (Article 8) and Benefits (Article 9) are automatically open. Both sides choose to open Article 6, Hours of Employment. The teams have exchanged proposals on Article 6.

**The proposal from the District includes the following:**

- Kindergarten teachers would have the option to work with the students assigned to them in an extended day kindergarten.
- CUTA and the District establish a joint committee to report back by December 1, 2013, with a plan to implement in 2014/15 changes in elementary preparation time that allows the student's highly qualified regular teacher to spend more time in the classroom with his/her students, is cost efficient, simplified and not dependent on substitute teachers.
- Allow for the current practice of late start collaboration days at secondary schools without the need for annual waivers.
- Creating four (4) minimum days during elementary parent conference week to allow teachers to conduct parent conferences without the need for students to be in class with substitute teachers.
- Establishing a work day for all full time teachers that is 7.5 hours in length. This includes a 30 minute lunch.
- Agreeing that in a code red school safety drill or an actual school safety code red situation that the requirement for a 30 minute duty free lunch would be waived for that day only.
- When CUTA members are offered training that is optional and is outside of the normal work year such as in the summer, that the District can establish a pay rate as agreed to with the unit member.

**The proposal from CUTA includes the following:**

- Reduce work year from 183 to 180 days/year while maintaining the current salary schedule. This eliminates the required workdays prior to the start of school and the (elementary) parent conference day and the (secondary) grading day.
- Unit members can work (at their discretion) 10 extra work days at their daily rate of pay.
- Eliminates any requirement that teachers be present before or after student instructional time.
- Unit members would not be required to perform any activities not delineated in the collective bargaining agreement. The eliminates the requirement that unit members participate in activities such as parent conferences, evaluation meetings, open house, back to school nights and district wide and site staff meetings.
- Provides elementary teachers with 60, ½ days (equivalent to 30 full days) of preparation time to be provided by unit members who are prep time specialists.
- The delivery, scope and sequence of state and district adopted materials would be at the discretion of each unit member.
- Unless mandated by the State of California, assessments would be at the discretion of each unit member.
- Unit members who choose to participate in the Reduced Workload Program (Willy Brown) must approve their part time schedule. This program allows those who meet the criteria the ability to receive full health and welfare benefits and full STRS credit while working part time.

The full text of both proposals is available on the District website at:

<http://www.chicousd.org/Departments/Human-Resources/Negotiation-Updates/index.html>

The teams have several more meeting dates scheduled.

**CSEA Negotiations:** The District and Chapter 110 negotiating teams have exchanged initial proposals for the **2013/14 school year**. Wages (Article 2) and Benefits (Article 7) are automatically open. Chapter 110 is opening Article 6, Transfers. The District is opening Article 17, Early Retirement Plan. Both teams will now work on setting dates to meet.

**Classified Human Resources:** We wanted to give classified employees some general information regarding layoffs and the process that the Classified Human Resources department follows when performing layoffs.

Recently, as a result of a School Board (Board) action, several positions were eliminated resulting in employees receiving layoff notices. The effective date of layoff for CSEA members is 45 working days from the date of notice. A working day is defined as any day that the District office is open. When a specific position is eliminated, due to lack of work or lack of funds, the employee holding the position is notified of the layoff.

Employees have seniority rights under the contract and therefore have an opportunity to bump into a position within their classification or into a previously held classification at the same or lower level. If an employee bumps within their classification but is unable to receive the total hours that they held prior to the layoff, they are placed on a re-employment list for the remaining hours that would make them whole. If an employee bumps into a previously held classification because nothing is available within their current classification then the employee goes onto a longer re-employment list. The employee is deemed to have taken a demotion in lieu of layoff and they are on a re-employment list for 63 months.

When an employee is placed onto a re-employment list within his/her classification because the employee has no bumping options, the employee remains on the re-employment list for 39 months.

When a position is eliminated, classified human resources looks at all of the potential bumping and sends out notices to all employees who may be impacted by the elimination of a position. The layoff process follows the Collective Bargaining Agreement and the Impact and Effects of layoffs are reviewed by CSEA representatives prior to any action by the Board. All layoffs are initiated outside of classified human resources.

## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VALUED EMPLOYEES

**CHS Teacher Mike Bruggeman Invited to Smithsonian:** The Smithsonian's National Museum of American History is beginning an initiative in 3D education. The project aims to create K-12 education materials around printable 3D images of our objects. In their review of this topic, they learned about the work Mr. Bruggeman is doing in using 3D technology in his classroom and have invited him to participate in a summer institute at the Smithsonian. Way to put Chico on the map Mr. Bruggeman!



**Congratulations Luke Steinberg, 2013 Masonic Classified Employee of the Year:** Luke Steinberg will be presented an award from the Chico Masonic Family Center as the Chico Unified School District Classified Employee of the Year. Luke has been an employee of CUSD and a member of the Maintenance and Operations team since 1998. As our district Carpenter, Luke has completed projects at every school site. His workmanship and attention to detail is impeccable. His cabinetry skills can be seen throughout the district. From desks, to book shelves, to computer tables, you name it, Luke can build it. One of Luke's famous

lines (and he has many), is "It's for the Kids". Luke has also served as a mentor for the Fair View Construction Academy for THREE years. He works with the academy two days a week helping young men and women develop not only carpentry skills, but good life skills. The awards presentation will be on April 25, at the Chico Masonic Family Center. Again, congratulations to Luke for receiving this well-deserved and prestigious award.

**Golden Apple Leadership Awards:** Congratulations to [Heather Deaver](#) and [Judi Roth](#)! Heather, Certificated Human Resources Assistant, was voted by her CUMA colleagues to receive the February Golden Apple Award and Judi, Principal at Bidwell Junior High School, received the same award for the month of March. Congratulations to both outstanding ladies and thank you to [Jack and Blake Danielson](#) of Golden Apple Insurance for their continued support and recognition of CUSD staff and students.



## NEWS FROM SCHOOL SITES

### Upcoming Art Events Featuring CUSD Students and Staff:

#### April:

- Until April 5: Creative Fusion show at Chico Art Center, featuring Jr High and High School students' work from seven Chico schools.
- April 13: Chico High School Symphonic Band with the Chico State Wind Ensemble, 7:30 pm Harlen Adams Theater
- April 17-19: Pleasant Valley High School Drama, *Pirates of Penzance*, Center for the Arts, 7:30pm, tickets in advance \$8, at the door \$10

#### May:

- May 3, 4, 5: Chico High A Cappella Choir trip to Heritage Music Festival in San Francisco, Fisherman's Wharf, Great America, Chinatown, a Giants/Dodgers Game and Beach Blanket Babylon.
- May 7: Chico High Choral Spring Concert and Silent Auction, Center for the Arts, 7:00pm, \$7.00 Featuring: Mixed Chorus, A Cappella Choir, Madrigals, Chic, Sac Street Boys, and Voce.
- May 8: Chico Junior High School Band and Choir Spring Concert, 7:00 pm Center for the Arts.
- May 9: Chico High School Jazz Ensemble and Symphonic Band "A Musical Mosaic", 7:00 pm Center for the Arts.
- May 10 and 11: Chico High School, *Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr* on at 7:30 in William's theatre at Chico High; \$5.00
- May 24-27: Silver Dollar Fair, CUSD High School's display of Visual Arts

**The ROP Culinary II:** The ROP Culinary II course supported two gourmet competitive teams this year at the California Restaurant Association "Boyd's Coffee Culinary Cup". Teams developed recipes, costed for yields, created menus, developed work plans, problem solved tens of issues since the hour long production event forced them to only utilize two butane burners and two benches of space. Students purchased, transported and organized all their own equipment and food. Six beautiful, professional level plates were produced by each team and an excellent packet.

The "A" team consisted of [Isaac Kulchin](#), [Andrew Wells](#), [Barbora Buzinskaite](#) and [Joe Wood](#) with alternate [Alexandra Comfort](#). This team julienned and braised their way into third place in state and were offered over \$10,000 each in a variety of scholarship options from public and private hospitality



programs. The Chico Finest Team consisted of [Destiny Ruiz](#), [Shawn Moran](#), [Jessica Periera](#) and [Kayleona Hill](#) with alternate [Julissa Quintera](#). Performing admirably and notably by several judges they placed 11 in a field of 30 schools. Congratulations to all these students... they represented Chico Unified with exceptional sportsmanship and team spirit. ~ Priscilla Burns, ROP Culinary II



**CHS FFA Wins Multiple Awards!** The Chico High Agriculture Department is thrilled to announce the success of our hardworking students! This year six students earned their State FFA Degree, the highest award given by the State Association. Congratulations to the following FFA members:

- [Kinsey McDonald](#)
- [Courtney Wood](#)
- [Maddi Johnson](#)
- [Kyle Keane](#)
- [Elizabeth Polen](#)
- [Natalie Dean](#)

[Courtney Wood](#) also earned the Superior Region FFA Equine Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award and is now a State Finalist for California. Courtney's project includes her horses that she uses for events in the High School Rodeo Association, where she has set herself apart from her peers and is currently being contacted by several college rodeo teams throughout the Nation for her skills. All of the above students have been recognized at the Superior Region Awards Ceremony, and will also be recognized at the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Chico FFA Parent Member Banquet on May 1!

Chico FFA is also very fortunate to have some amazing Administrators that continually support our program. We are happy to congratulate [Robin Bicocca](#) for receiving the North Valley Section Star Counselor award for all of her support helping students achieve success through our department. [Mike Allen](#) has also been awarded the North Valley Section Star Administrator award for his constant vigilance and commitment to the teachers and students of the Chico FFA. Thank you and congratulations to Mike and Robin for their support of Chico FFA.

In addition, the Chico FFA Chapter was awarded the Superior Chapter Award at the Superior Region FFA Meeting over spring break! The purpose of the State Superior chapter application is to recognize chapters who go above and beyond to provide a wide-range of leadership opportunities, activities, and events for their community, school, and members. Congratulations and thank you to CHS FFA teachers [Sheena Sloan](#), [Kevin Payne](#), [Ronnie Cockrell](#) and [Quinn Mendez](#) as well as to all of their hard working students!

**CHS Music Student Earns Full Scholarship:** Congratulations to [William Santana](#) from Chico High who auditioned for and was given a FULL SCHOLARSHIP to attend a bass camp at the prestigious Berkeley

School of Music this summer in Boston. Will is a member of the choir, jazz band and band at Chico High and also has his own rock band. Way to go Will!!!

**Congratulations to the Chico High A Cappella Choir and the Chico High Mixed Chorus:** Both groups received SUPERIOR ratings at the CMEA choral music festival held on March 15. The Chico Junior High Choir, directed by [Vickie Triplett](#) also attended this event. There were 19 choirs from all over Northern California in attendance and were adjudicated by Dawn Weiss and Dean Estabrook.

**PVHS Student Kaileen Johnson Shines at California State Mock Trial Finals:** Congratulations to [Kaileen Johnson](#) of Pleasant Valley High School who received State recognition for her role as Defense Witness Sasha Fain at the 2013 California State Mock Trial Finals.



Educate. Participate.

On behalf of Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) and the Mock Trial staff, we would like to thank all the students, teachers, parents, coaches, and coordinators for their participation in CRF's 32nd Annual California Mock Trial Finals.

Each year we are amazed at the level of professionalism and sportsmanship displayed by the student participants. We know the teacher and attorney coaches had a lot to do with how well the students conducted themselves over the weekend. We also know that the program is more than the culminating event; it's about months of preparing, learning and growing with each practice. Students, who participate in the California Mock Trial Program like to be challenged and through their participation, realize new talents and abilities they didn't know they had. For many students, the Mock Trial program becomes a part of their college portfolios. For a few, Mock Trial becomes an inspiration to go on to law school. For most, the program helps them gain confidence to try out new academic and character-building challenges. Regardless of what each student gained through their participation, we hope they have the skills necessary to grow into empowered and effective members of our diverse and democratic society.

This year's program has come to an end with outstanding performances by all involved. La Reina High School from Ventura is the Mock Trial State Champion and Redlands High School from San Bernardino is the runner-up. La Reina will move on to represent California at Nationals in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 9-11, 2013.

Thank you once again in furthering CRF's mission to create informed, engaged, and active citizens. We hope to see you again next year!

CRF Staff



**More:**

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- [More Photos](#)

## CUSD IN THE NEWS

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