



LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.

2010-2011
Annual Report
to the Community



This annual publication is dedicated to the teachers, administrators and support staff of Lake County schools and programs — the true superheroes of Lake County. We honor you, and thank you for your commitment, tireless service and dedication to our students.

**LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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LAKE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Wally Holbrook



LAKE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.



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2010-2011: A Year of Transitions

A Year of Opportunities

The year 2010-2011 will be remembered as a season of changes for Lake County Office of Education.

The year began with the election of Wally Holbrook, as the Lake County Superintendent of Schools, and the farewell to Superintendent, Dave Geck.

Our new Superintendent took office early on September 1, and began with a complete review of all programs and services provided by the County Office of Education. We took the time to examine the purpose, goals, challenges and triumphs of each program and service of LCOE. We developed indicators of success and short and long-term goals for each program.

A few weeks into the 2011 year, more transitions occurred with the announcement from the California Department of Education that Chris Thomas, Deputy Superintendent of Schools for Lake County Office of Education was appointed as State Trustee to the Round Valley School District. Viewing this challenge as an opportunity, LCOE

embarked on a restructuring process to improve services and reduce expenditures. This process resulted in the appointment of three Senior Directors — Tim Gill, Senior Director of Educational Services; Brock Falkenberg, Senior Director of Human Resources and Designated Services, and Michelle Buell, Senior Director of Business Services.

The year also brought continued challenges with the California budget crisis. Uncertainty, reduced resources and, in some cases, dramatic cuts, had to be accommodated throughout the county.

In challenging times, greatness shines, and Lake County students and educators are the true superheroes of our communities — overcoming countless obstacles and barriers to succeed and continue to provide outstanding education, and cultivate the potential of the students of Lake County.



SUPERHERO (soo—per/hee-roh): a character or hero having extraordinary abilities; *also* a highly successful individual dedicated to working on behalf of the greater good (*synonym*: Lake County educator).



A Message from the Superintendent

To Teach ~ To Serve ~ To Learn

Welcome to the Lake County Office of Education's 2010-2011 Annual Report to the Community. This report outlines the services the County Office of Education provides and gives you a snapshot of the demographics, enrollment, staffing and academic achievement in our County.

Since taking office approximately one year ago, I have gained a greater understanding of the dedication, passion, and resilience of our County's educators, administrators and support staff. At the County Office of Education, we have a renewed commitment to ensuring and improving the quality of learning for all students in the County by Providing exemplary leadership and innovative, effective programs and services for the County's seven school districts. The County Office of Education is a hub of activity, providing a wide range of services to school districts and staff to benefit the nearly 10,000 students enrolled in schools and programs throughout the County.

In September, we adopted a theme for our work at the County Office of Education — To Teach ~ To Serve ~ To Learn. These three simple words, truly embody our goals and purpose here at the County Office. We hope that this brief report will help to keep you informed of our goals, challenges and accomplishments.

For further information on the Lake County Office of Education programs and services, please check our website at www.lakecoe.org, where you will find details on each department and program and contact information for the appropriate staff member.

We thank you for your support and participation in our local schools. With dedicated community support and involvement, we can ensure the highest quality education and supports for every Lake County Student.

Sincerely,
Wally Holbrook
Lake County Superintendent of Schools



Partners in Educational Excellence

The Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) provides leadership, coordination and a variety of instructional, business and consulting services to the County's seven school districts, thus enhancing their ability to provide quality educational programs.

The County Office of Education also serves as an intermediate link between the California Department of Education and the local districts, helping to translate state initiatives and mandates into action at the community level.

The Lake County Office of Education's main functions are:

Support and Regulatory

LCOE provides support and monitoring to school districts in a number of areas, including: fiscal oversight and assistance, financial auditing, information technology, payroll accounting, human resources, school district boundaries, state financial standards, compliance with the mandates of court-ordered settlements and teacher credential services.

Educational Leadership, Coordination, Special Services and Enrichment

The County Office annually provides resources and professional development, and offers services in the areas of curriculum and instruction, assessment, special education, child development, career-technical education and staff development. Students, families and communities are served through the Healthy Start Programs, truancy reduction support, Child Care Planning Council, Children's Council, and AmeriCorps. Enrichment programs, such as Summer Academies and Academic Decathlon are provided through the College-Going Initiative.

Direct Student Instruction

LCOE programs offer direct instruction for students for whom the regular educational programs offered by school districts are not effective, and for students who are wards of the Juvenile Court. Additionally, students are offered career-technical preparation through the Regional Occupational Program, and the GED program.





Pictures Say it All

To Teach ~ To Serve ~ To Learn

AmeriCorps Star of Lake County



Taylor Observatory



Solar Car Races



College Admittance Reception College-Going Initiative



Advocacy Walk/ Children's Festival

Polar Plunge

LCOE Superheroes



Lake County Cares for our Kids!

April is Month of the Young Child and
Child Abuse Prevention Month!

Early Connection Preschools

Child Development Division





Lake County Office of Education Programs and Services

Alternative Education

Director: Andrew Goodwin

Providing alternative learning environments for students in grades seven through twelve, who are experiencing difficulties in a traditional school setting or who are exhibiting negative behavior patterns in the school or community.

- Renaissance Court School at the Lake County Juvenile Detention Center
- Lloyd P. Hance Community School
- Clearlake Community School

AmeriCorps

Director: Rob Young

AmeriCorps is a national community service program designed to help communities meet the specific needs in their area by recruiting and training individuals who are willing to devote one to two years' service in selected community projects. Service programs strengthen communities, encourage responsibility, expand opportunities for education, provide job experience and increase life skills. Lake County's AmeriCorps program is a research-based literacy intervention program focused on assisting students, ages 3-18, in removing obstacles to academic success.

Business Services

Director: Michelle Buell

The County Superintendent is responsible for the fiscal oversight of school districts within the county. To meet this requirement, the Business Services Department reviews school district budgets and financial statements, provides intervention on behalf of financially troubled districts, and follow-up for certain audit exceptions. Audited and processed by Business Staff are district payrolls, vendor payments, and cash reconciliation. The Staff provides critical information, guidance and support, and provides professional development opportunities to district business personnel, administrative staff, and school district governing boards.

Internally, the Business Staff provides support to program directors with the development and maintenance of budgets, and financial reporting requirements. Payroll, health insurance, and retirement services are provided to over 280 employees. Purchasing, inventory and cash deposits are among the many other functions of the internal business services.



Lake County Office of Education Programs and Services



Career Technical Education

Director: Brock Falkenberg

The primary goal of the Career Technical Education office is to provide countywide leadership and support for high school career education that is academically rigorous and aligned with the workforce preparation needs of our county. Through the Regional Occupational Program (ROP), LCOE offers job training classes at every comprehensive high school in the county and a limited number of adult classes.

Child Care Planning Council

Director: Shelly Mascari

The Lake County Child Care Planning Council promotes quality child care through community assessment, advocacy, resource development, and collaboration with other organizations.

Significant initiatives include:

- Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Program
- Advocacy Walk/Children's Festival
- Steps to Leadership — quality improvement, leadership development stipend program
- Countywide child care needs assessment and master plan

Child Development Division

Director: Cindy Adams

The Lake County Office of Education, Child Development Division offers quality preschool programs for children ages four years through five years of age and after-school programs for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Our state preschools are called Early Connection Programs, serving 340 preschoolers daily. Our after-school programs are called Kid Connection Programs, and we currently provide services for 380 after-school children on a daily basis. The Child Development Early Connection program is funded by the California Department of Education, and the Kid Connection program is funded through a grant from the California Department of Education known as ASES, After School Education and Safety.





Lake County Office of Education Programs and Services

Curriculum and Instruction

Director: Tim Gill

The focus of Curriculum and Instruction support at LCOE is to provide leadership and technical assistance in all things related to “what to teach and how to teach it” for schools and districts in Lake County.

Significant initiatives include:

- Professional Development
- Regional Program Coordination: Provide leadership related to regional programs and initiatives (RSDSS, CTAP, AVID, College-Going Initiative, Mendo-Lake Leadership Network, Categorical Compliance).
- Public School Accountability: Provide leadership and technical support related to AYP, API, STAR, etc.
- Program Improvement: Provide leadership and technical support for schools and districts that enter into Federal Program Improvement.
- Categorical Programs: Provide leadership and expertise in categorical compliance through the Categorical Consortium

Healthy Start

Director: Joan Reynolds

Lake County Healthy Start provides student and family support through a school-based service model. Through a wide range of community-based services, Healthy Start provides families with the support they need to enable their children to attend school, healthy and ready to learn.

The following targeted services are provided, in addition to our general, school-based outreach: Children’s Oral Health Project, Nurturing Parenting Program, PAL Lice Eradication, Foster Youth Services, McKinney-Vento Homeless Students Assistance, and Family PRO (Differential Response). We also provide leadership for the Lake County Children’s Council.

Information Technology

Director: Blaze King

The Information Technology Department has three areas of support: Internal, External and External Business Services. All three programs provide leadership and support to the seven school districts and the county office. We provide support to departments that would be unable to meet their mandates without computer and technology access.

Lake County Office of Education Programs and Services



Safe Schools/Healthy Students

Director: Joyce Elmer

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program was implemented in 2002 to meet the needs of students requiring mental health services but who were unable to access these services through the clinics provided by Lake County Mental Health. The Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program provides the following counseling and prevention services:

- Prevention
- Early Intervention
- School Based Counseling (individual and group)

SELPA (Special Education Local Plan Area)

Director: Michael Oken

The Lake County SELPA is made up of the seven school districts and the County Office of Education located within Lake County. These Local Education Agencies (LEAs) collaborate to offer a free appropriate public education (FAPE) to every individual with Exceptional Needs. A SELPA is a state-mandated consortium that provides for all the special education service needs of children residing within the regional boundaries.

Significant initiatives include:

- SELPA Management Information System (MIS), which consists of software that links school/program sites with a master database at the SELPA office.
- The Community Advisory Committee, consisting of parents, teachers, representatives from school districts, and representatives of interested agencies within the SELPA region.
- WorkAbility I is a statewide cooperative program that encourages students with disabilities to complete high school and acquire marketable job skills.
- The Early Start Infant Program is a free, federally funded program that provides assessment and intervention services to children from 0-3 years of age with vision, hearing, or orthopedic impairments.
- Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Services





Lake County School Districts

Kelseyville Unified School

District:

4410 Konocti Road,
Kelseyville, 95451
707-279-1511
Dave McQueen,
District Superintendent

Konocti Unified School

District:

9430 Lake Street/PO Box 759
Lower Lake, 95457
707-994-6475
Dr. William MacDougall Ed.D.,
District Superintendent

Lakeport Unified School

District:

2508 Howard Street
Lakeport, 95453
707-262-3000
Erin Smith-Hagberg,
District Superintendent

Lucerne Elementary School

District:

3351 Country Club Drive
PO Box 1083, Lucerne, 95458
707-274-5578
Mike Brown,
District Superintendent

Middletown Unified School

District:

20932 Big Canyon Road
PO Box 338/Middletown 95461
707-987-4100
Korby Olson,
District Superintendent

Upper Lake Union Elementary School District:

679 Second Street
Upper Lake, 95485
707-275-2357
Kurt Herndon,
District Superintendent

Upper Lake Union High School District:

675 Clover Valley Road, Upper Lake, 95485 * 707-275-2655
Patrick Iaccino, District Superintendent



Lake County Fast Facts



- **9,242** students enrolled in public schools in Lake County.
- **4** K-12 school districts, **4** K-8 school districts, **1** independent charter school and county court and community schools in Lake County.
- **2,550** students served annually through the Healthy Start programs and services, removing barriers and helping students succeed.
- **1,220** students completed career/technical education classes through the Regional Occupational Program (ROP).
- **450** students served annually in counseling programs through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students programs.
- **2,500** students are served through prevention programs through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students programs.
- **100** students annually are supported through three alternative education programs: two community schools and one court school, offering an alternative learning environment for students in grades seven through twelve who are experiencing difficulties in a traditional school setting.
- **250** students served annually through the Early Connection Preschools.
- **350** students served annually through the Kid Connection After School Programs.



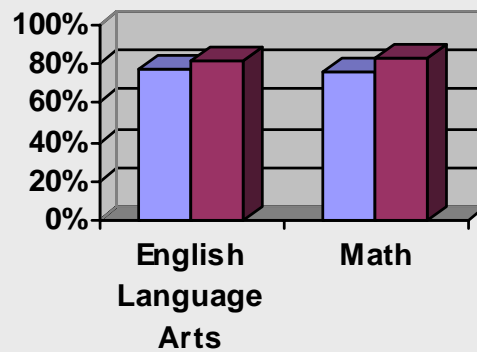


Lake County Student Performance

California High School Exit Exam—Pass rate for grade 10 first-time test-takers*

All California students take the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) in grade 10. If they don't pass it the first time, they have multiple opportunities to take it again.

■ Lake County
 ■ State of California



Lake County 77% passed the English Language Arts section and 76% passed the Math section
 State of California 82% passed the English Language Arts section and 83% passed the Math section

High School Graduation Rates*

Graduation Rates		
	2008-2009	2009-2010
State of California	80.43%	84.75%
Lake County	93.13%	94.28%

Dropout Rates		
	2008-2009	2009-2010
State of California	4.46%	3.41%
Lake County	2.94%	3.09%



Lake County Student Performance



Lake County School Districts Enrollment and Academic Performance Index (API)*

2011 California Growth API: 778

The Academic Performance Index (API) is a numeric assignment given to each school based upon individual student testing scores in the areas of science, math, English and history. Students are tested each year, and their scores fall into one of five categories: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic. The yearly STAR testing system and the high school exit exam are the tests used to assess each school's performance, and these tests are part of the California standards that allow the state to meet the requirements for the 2001 Federal law known as No Child Left Behind.

District	Enrollment	2008	2009	2010	2011	Change over 4 years
Kelseyville	1719	733	727	724	737	+4
Konocti	3091	675	676	681	698	+23
Lakeport	1544	751	774	779	786	+35
Lucerne	239	722	728	763	784	+62
**Middletown	1712	760	792	791	793	+33
UL Elementary	508	687	681	705	697	+10
UL High	378	667	670	683	661	-6

**Includes students enrolled in Lake County International Charter School
Excludes Lake County Office of Education operated schools' enrollment of 51.

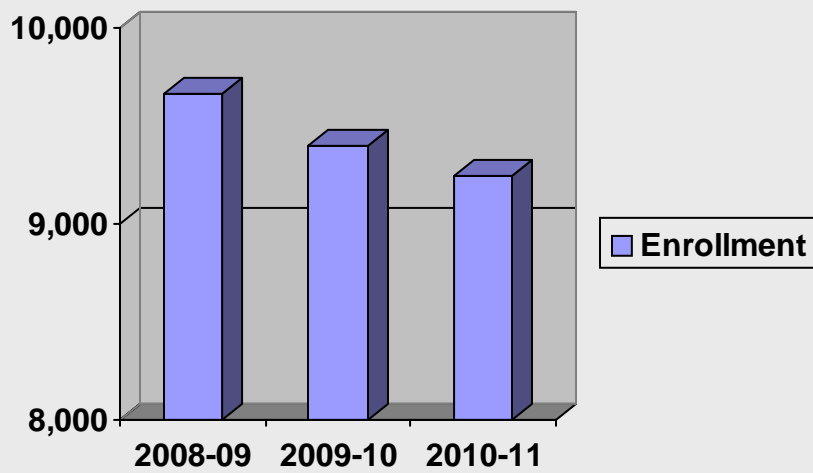




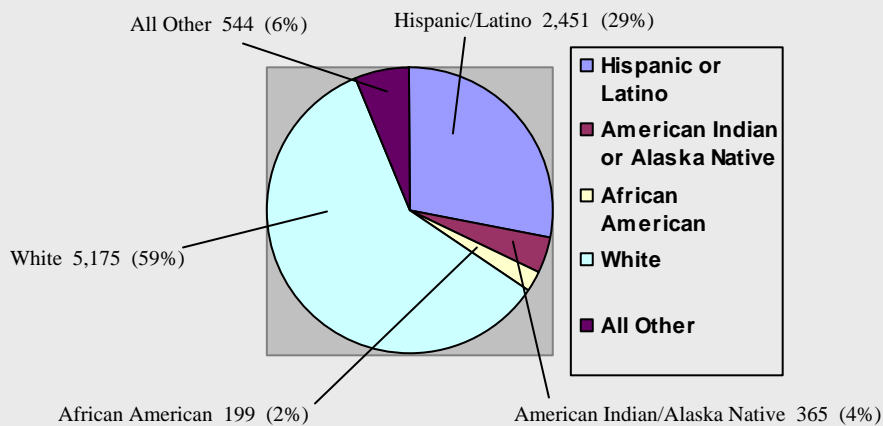
About Lake County Students

Lake County Overall K-12 Enrollment

The number of students enrolled in Lake County Schools has steadily declined since the 2002-2003 school year. At that time, enrollment was reported as 10,443. As of October 2010, enrollment was reported as 9,242.



Student Ethnicity*



About Lake County Students



Special Education Enrollment by Disability*

Disability	Lake County Enrollment	Statewide Enrollment
Mental Retardation	92	43,032
Hard of Hearing	11	9,630
Deaf	4	4,003
Speech/Language Impairment	199	166,886
Visual Impairment	4	4,339
Emotional Disturbance	51	26,438
Orthopedic Impairment	21	14,849
Other Health Impairment	79	57,344
Specific Learning Disability	520	279,274
Deaf-Blindness	0	154
Multiple Disability	6	5,289
Autism	76	65,908
Traumatic Brain Injury	2	1,783
TOTAL Special Ed ENROLLMENT	1,065	678,929

English Language Learners*

	K	Gr. 1	Gr. 2	Gr. 3	Gr. 4	Gr. 5	Gr. 6	Gr. 7	Gr. 8	Gr. 9	Gr. 10	Gr. 11	Gr. 12
# of EL	107	127	105	108	103	94	74	55	60	63	54	38	22
% of Total	10.6%	12.6%	10.4%	10.7%	10.2%	9.3%	7.3%	5.4%	5.9%	6.2%	5.3%	3.8%	2.2%
State %	11.5%	12.3%	11.9%	10.7%	9.0%	7.4%	6.1%	5.8%	5.4%	5.7%	5.1%	4.5%	4.1%

*Information collected from CDE DataQuest.





District Finances

District General Fund*

	Kelseyville	Konocti	Lakeport	Lucerne	Middletown*	UL Elementary	UL High
Total Revenues	\$14,374,175	\$26,948,969	\$12,449,185	\$2,006,364	\$14,752,877	\$4,381,870	\$4,098,206
Total Expenditures	\$13,803,794	\$26,690,140	\$11,902,223	\$1,794,185	\$13,933,682	\$4,485,126	\$3,850,339

*Includes data for Lake County International Charter School

Lake County Office of Education General Fund*

Revenue Limit Sources	\$2,384,403
Federal Revenue	\$5,627,136
Other State Revenues	\$7,094,548
Other Local Revenues	\$2,437,766
TOTAL REVENUES	\$17,543,853
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$17,724,297



Lake County Revenue per Student



Lake County ADA Revenue

Over the past few years the education dollars have been greatly impacted by lagging Cost of Living Adjustments and an increasing deficit factor (a percentage by which an allocation of funds is reduced until the state's economy recovers, and then the amount would theoretically be restored). The cumulative effect of these two factors – along with a decline in student enrollment in Lake County Schools -- have resulted in significantly less money per child now than we had five years ago, as reflected in the table below. At the same time, health benefits, goods and materials, fuel and food costs continue to climb.

Year	County ADA*	Revenue Due Per ADA**	Total Due	Revenue Funded per ADA	Total Funded	Total Loss Countywide
2007-08	9,079	\$5,826	\$52,895,776	\$5,826	\$52,895,776	\$0
2008-09	8,938	\$6,156	\$55,022,516	\$5,672	\$50,706,550	-\$4,315,966
2009-10	8,656	\$6,459	\$55,909,104	\$5,415	\$46,872,240	-\$10,196,436
2010-11	8,578	\$6,392	\$54,834,040	\$5,244	\$44,984,201	-\$9,849,839
2011-12	(est) 8,499	\$6,536	\$55,221,387	\$5,244	\$44,312,955	-\$10,908,433
						-\$34,111,102

*ADA - Average Daily Attendance

** Based on statewide average for unified districts

California State Lottery Revenues**

	Kelseyville	Konocti	Lakeport	Lucerne	Middle-town*	Upper Lake Elementary	Upper Lake HS	LCOE	County Total
2008-2009	215,992	362,648	199,065	32,003	223,922	60,595	50,996	55,605	1,200,826
2009-2010	215,553	391,514	201,843	32,131	221,940	66,527	42,911	59,621	1,232,040
2010-2011	232,596	395,543	199,943	31,684	206,796	61,428	46,434	58,815	1,233,239

*Includes data for Lake County International Charter School

** Information collected from the California State Lottery website.



2010 California Teacher of the Year



Jennifer Kelly

The 2010 Lake County Teacher of the Year, Jennifer Kelly, received the coveted recognition of being selected as a California Teacher of the Year by State Superintendent, Jack O'Connell. In 1972, California began recognizing outstanding teachers to honor the profession chosen by 300,000 persons in the state and to heighten interest in teaching as a career. The process results in the annual selection of five teachers statewide who successfully employ strategies to increase academic success and narrow the achievement gap with a range of diverse students.

Jennifer Kelly was recognized as Middletown District Teacher of the Year in May, 2010. Soon after, she completed the countywide selection process and was nominated Lake County Teacher of the Year. After submitting a 21-page application to the California Department of Education in August, she was notified that the state had chosen her as a finalist. An on-site visit was conducted to observe her teaching, and then she was invited to Sacramento for an intensive panel interview. Only one other Lake County teacher has received such recognition in the 37 year history of the program. Alan Sigel from Carle' High School in Lower Lake was selected as 2005 California Teacher of the Year. Additionally, Marc Morita, 7th grade English teacher from Middletown Middle School, was selected as a finalist in 2008.

Dan Morgan, Middletown Middle School Principal, explains why Jennifer was chosen as their District Teacher of the Year: "When you walk around campus and ask students about their favorite classes, they continuously rank Mrs. Kelly's science class as a favorite. Her energy





and enthusiasm is inspiring. She has a huge variety of hands-on projects and tons of activities. Year after year, her students score proficient and advanced on the California STAR Tests, regardless of their demographics, socio-economic status, or ability level in other subjects.”

A teacher for over 20 years, Mrs. Kelly came to Middletown Middle School in 1999. She grew up in Mill Valley, and earned a BS in Zoology from UC Davis, and three credentials from San Francisco State: a single subject credential in life science, a supplementary credential in chemistry, and a multiple subject teaching credential.

Jennifer explains that she feels fortunate to be teaching in Middletown, stating that, “Middletown Unified School District supports teachers; they give you the freedom to teach to your strengths while covering the curriculum.” Showing students she cares and developing exciting lessons are ways Mrs. Kelly is able to encourage students to learn the skills necessary for success. She is adamant that educators can have students be successful on state tests without sacrificing creativity in presenting the curriculum. She says, “I love teaching; I enjoy the challenge of taking concepts and turning them into ideas the students are inspired to question, learn and understand.”

Mrs. Kelly has enthusiastically fulfilled her role as an ambassador of the teaching profession. She states, “I have enjoyed promoting education in Lake County, and helping to educate the public on the challenges and successes of the teaching profession.”

When asked what new endeavors might be in her future, Jennifer is clear. “I am ready and eager to help and support other teachers, but I have no desire to move into any other career focus. I want to keep teaching.”

Congratulations to Lake County’s own Jennifer Kelly on this prestigious recognition.

2011 California Distinguished School



Clear Lake High School

In a decade of National concerns on the declining state of our education system, many Lake County schools continue to make great advancements in preparing Lake County students for success. One such school is Clear Lake High School, the recipient of the 2011 Distinguished School Award.

Since 1986, the California Department of Education has recognized middle and high schools throughout the state who have demonstrated educational excellence for all students and progress in narrowing the achievement gap. The application process to receive this honor is rigorous and comprehensive. A team of educators from across the state review the extensive applications under direction from the California Department of Education. After review, eligible applicants then receive a site visit by a team of educators focused on assessing quality. Eligibility for this award begins with an analysis of the Academic Performance Index scores, which is a numeric assignment given to each school based upon individual student testing scores in the areas of science, math, English and history. Students are tested each year, and their scores fall into one of five categories: advanced, proficient, basic, below basic, and far below basic. The yearly STAR testing system and the high school exit exam are the tests used to assess each school's performance, and these tests are part of the California standards that allow the state to meet the requirements for the 2001 Federal law known as No Child Left Behind. In order to qualify to begin the Distinguished School application process, a school must have an API growth score of greater than 746. Clear Lake High School far surpassed that





with a 2010 API score of 790. The California average API score is 767.

With an API score increase of 30 points this year, and the Distinguished School Award, Lakeport's Clear Lake High School, is a success story that, according to Principal, Steve Gentry, is many years in the making. Always a strong performer, Clear Lake High School has regularly had moderate increases in API scores since 1999, when California's Public School Accountability Act created the current scoring system. After 3 to 4 years of steady increases, their API scores began to plateau, so teachers and administrators worked together to create a system of incentives and teaching and testing strategies to tackle the issue. "It is impossible to identify one particular technique or strategy that is responsible for this success," said Gentry. When pressed for specifics, Gentry, who has been on staff at Clear Lake since 1978 and principal since 1995, immediately defers all credit to the "remarkable students" and "excellent teachers" at Clear Lake High.

The Distinguished School Award looks for "signature programs," which are unique approaches to student success. One successful approach at Clear Lake High School was the CRISS program, which stands for Creating Independence through Student-Owned Strategies. These programs help students of all abilities learn content information across the curriculum. The CRISS program gives teachers different strategies and tools they can use to help their students succeed. These tools are utilized school-wide, so the students are more active participants by showing, telling and modeling their learning. The success of this program displays the sense of collaboration and teamwork that exists among the teaching staff at Clear Lake High School. Principal Steve Gentry is adamant, "It's not one strategy, it's all the staff and students working together to make Clear Lake High a success. We have excellent teachers, and we have a great group of students who are willing to do their best."

According to Tim Gill, Senior Director of Educational Services at Lake County Office of Education, "Clear Lake High School is very deserving of this recognition. This is difficult to achieve, and is the result of a focus on student achievement."



AmeriCorps Makes a Difference in Lake County

*Recipients of the 2010 Star of Lake County Award for non-profit organization.



Make-A-Difference day is the nation's largest day of service, and Lake County Office of Education's AmeriCorps program honors this day with an annual food drive. Coordinating efforts with the Lake County Hunger Task Force, Lake Transit Authority, a number of local businesses, schools and community volunteers, for the last decade, the annual Make-A-Difference Day non-perishable food drive has provided thousands of pounds of food for our county's food cupboards.

The goal is simple: collect enough non-perishable foods to "Stuff-a-Bus." For the 2010 event, AmeriCorps members and community volunteers spent most of Saturday, October 23 doing just that as they collected food outside local businesses around Lake County in the cold, wet weather.

AmeriCorps and community volunteers raised over 7,000 pounds of food in 2010, more than double the amount from the 2009 food drive. Our food cupboards were very excited to hear the amount as there is such a high demand for food assistance this year, a problem made worse by the struggling economy.

To top the day off, AmeriCorps and community volunteers brought all donated food to the main staging area, located at Grocery Outlet in Lakeport, where a 30-foot Lake Transit Authority bus was waiting to be filled.

Over the past ten years, AmeriCorps— with the support of many local businesses and volunteers— has collected over 36,000 pounds of non-perishable foods for Lake County's food cupboards.



Lake County Spelling Bee Champions



The Lake County Junior High Spelling Bee (grades 7-8) was held at Upper Lake Middle School on Tuesday, March 15, 2011. In what proved to be a true test of endurance, the top two finalists were Ariana Diaz and Arthur Wilkie (pictured bottom left). Ariana is an eighth grade student at Middletown Middle School. Arthur is an eighth grader from Lucerne Elementary School. Both students went on to compete well in the California State Junior High Spelling Championship on Saturday, May 14, at Miller Creek Middle School in San Rafael. Neither Ariana nor Arthur is a stranger to competition at the statewide level. They both represented Lake County at last year's California State Spelling Bee. Congratulations to these Lake County Spelling Champions!

The Lake County Elementary Spelling bee was held at Terrace School in Lakeport on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. The top spellers were David Thinnies, a 6th grade student from Lucerne Elementary (right photo, on left), and Tyler Parrott, a 5th grader from Cobb Elementary (right photo, middle). David and Tyler also went on to compete well in the State Elementary Spelling Championship held on April 16, at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton.

The annual spelling competitions are coordinated by the Lake County Office of Education. Master of Ceremonies/Spell Master for both of the Spelling Bees was Stephanie Wayment, ELA/ELD Specialist at Lake County Office of Education. The judges for the competition were Robin Totorica and Jan Bailey, also from LCOE. Wally Holbrook, Lake County Superintendent of Schools, was in attendance to congratulate each of the spelling champions.



ROP

Career-Technical Education

When our teachers, administrators and board members support Career Technical Education (also known as Regional Occupational Programs), the students in Lake County high schools thrive. During the 2010-11 school year, over 40 CTE courses in 10 different industry sectors served over 1,300 students. Of the 15 Industry Sectors recognized by the state of California, we were able to offer courses in Information Technology; Arts, Media & Entertainment; Building Trades & Construction; Manufacturing & Product Development; Education, Child Development & Family Services; Health Science & Medical Technology; Hospitality, Tourism & Technology; Transportation; Finance & Business; and Agriculture & Natural Resources.

The mission of the Career and Technical Education department is to assist schools in providing students with skills necessary for a successful transition to postsecondary education or work. Today's career and technical education courses are evolving to meet the needs of students and employers in the 21st century.

Top left:
Students who perform well in Pam Inman's child development/child care classes are allowed to use an empathy belly that simulates pregnancy. For part of the exercise, a mechanical baby simulates a second child.



Top right:
Andrew Copsey runs the track-cutting torch in Mike Jones' ROP class.



Bottom left:
Katie Robertson, a beginning wood student is working with Mike Newton in building an Adirondack loveseat in Advanced Woods.



Bottom right:
Lake County students show and market animals during the Lake County Fair through local school agricultural pathway programs.



Community Partnerships



Lake County Office of Education is a leader in creating collaborative services in Lake County and remains a key collaborative partner in many areas. The Healthy Start collaborative, as well as the Child Care Planning Council, and Safe Schools/Healthy Students are programs that rely on effective collaborations with agencies and organizations throughout the county.

These programs are maximized by an extensive network of partnerships, including:

- Adventist Health/Redbud Community Hospital and Clinics
- Child Welfare Services
- Church Women United
- Easter Seals
- First 5 Lake
- Lake County Department of Health Services (Public Health, Mental Health, AODS)
- Lake County Department of Social Services
- Lake County Probation Department
- Lake County Tribal Health
- Lake Family Resource Center
- Lakeside Clinic (Mendocino Community Health Clinics)
- The Learning House State Child Care Programs
- Migrant Education
- North Coast Opportunities/Rural Communities Child Care/Head Start
- Redwood Coast Regional Center
- Redwood Children's Services
- Yuba Community College
- WIC

In 2010-11 a new partnership between LCOE's Healthy Start Collaborative and Lake County Probation resulted in a shared project to benefit probationary youth and their families. The new Blue Ribbon Commission includes LCOE participation and focuses on prevention services for children and youth and current services for foster children. Differential Response, a partnership between Child Welfare Services, Healthy Start, and Lake Family Resource Center, provides support services to families to keep them safe and stable.

These are just a few examples of schools and community partners working together to create safer and more stable families, which can provide the support necessary so children can come to school ready to learn.



Taylor Observatory- Norton Planetarium



Taylor Observatory-Norton Planetarium is located beneath the coal-black skies of Lake County, in Kelseyville. Our facility features a 36-seat classroom, a 16-inch research grade telescope and a planetarium with a 6.2 meter (20 ft.) dome and a Digitalium star projector system. It is well-equipped for students, teacher workshops and the general public to learn about astronomy and science.

During the 2010-2011 academic year we hosted free school field trips for over 1,500 Lake County students, providing activities, solar and night sky viewing and planetarium experience. We also provided lectures, planetarium shows and night sky viewing for over 1,000 county residents during our monthly public events and star parties.

Our Future Astronomers Telescope Essay Contest gave awards to 7 Lake County Students, who were given 6-inch Reflector Telescopes (pictured below). Additionally, our Junior Astronomy Camp provided summer time entertainment and education to 4th through 6th grade students and their families.



During the 2011-2012 year, the Taylor Facility's Norton Planetarium will be installing a new projection system to provide students and visitors a clearer, brighter future with a rich, immersive, multi-media learning environment. While the previous projector was used primarily for Earth-based astronomy shows, the new digital system, funded by the Lake County Office of Education, will let the planetarium expand its offerings in other scientific disciplines. It will allow us to go inside a cell, go underwater, go into space. The new technology will allow the planetarium to offer shows with more than three times the resolution and three times the brightness of the current projector. The resolution and contrast of this display will completely immerse visitors in what will seem to be the real thing.



The new system, a Digitalis Education Epsilon, also has show production software that will enable us to increase the complexity of our in-house shows. The Norton Planetarium will have a range of different shows alongside our home-grown night sky presentations to show stars, constellations and other interesting objects in our night sky. Our planetarium staff is excited to be experimenting with the different capabilities in creating new shows for the technology savvy students and visitors.

Academic Decathlon



Since 1980, Lake County schools have participated in the Academic Decathlon. The Academic Decathlon is a team competition where students challenge their intellect on a given topic. Each team is comprised of 9 student decathletes with a required even representation from students in Honors (3.75-4.0 GPA), Scholastics (3.00-3.749 GPA), Varsity (0.00-2.999 GPA). Students are given seven multiple choice exams in art, economics, language and literature, mathematics, music, science and social science. In addition to the multiple choice exams, students will also take an essay exam, be judged in speech (prepared and impromptu), interview, and participate in a Super Quiz relay event for the public to view.

During the 2010-2011 school year Lake County hosted 7 teams in a two-day regional event held at Lower Lake High including 65 students from Lower Lake High, Middletown High, Upper Lake High, Clear Lake High, Willits High and Williams High. The topic of the year was The Great Depression. More than 50 community volunteers were used to judge the students performances in essay, speech and interview. The winning team of each county earns a spot to compete at the state level with 65 counties represented for a chance to advance to the national level. From our regional event, Williams, Willits and Upper Lake High Schools all advanced to the state competition.

For the 2011-2012 school year, there will be 6 schools participating in our regional event including Lower Lake, Clear Lake, Middletown, Upper Lake, Kelseyville and Willits High Schools. The topic of the year is the Age of Empire and includes reading of the novella Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad and music from the Romantic Era. Kelseyville High School will be hosting the two-day event in late January and early February.

The Lodge at Blue Lakes has been a major sponsor of the Academic Decathlon in the previous year and will remain so for the 2012 event. Scholarships were provided in the amount of \$250 to the top scoring student from each school. A new competition was added locally last year to allow students to

express what they have learned through art and poetry. The Poster and Poetry Contest with cash award will be sponsored this year by the Lake County Arts Council. Additional sponsors included UC San Francisco, Steele Winery, Six Sigma Winery, Moore Family Winery, Rosa d'Oro Vineyards, Fetzer Winery, Cecil's Take N Bake Pizza, Jonas Energy Solutions and Mountain High Coffee & Books.



Upper Lake High School Academic Decathlon Team Two



Early Childhood Educator of the Year Awards



The Lake County Child Care Planning Council held the third annual Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award Dinner, May 6, at The Lodge at Blue Lakes, offering recognition and valuable award packages to 11 exceptional early childhood educators, and 2 advocates. Over 170 attendees and many Lake County organizations, businesses and individuals offered significant support to make this event possible. Lake County Department of Social Services, Lake Family Resource Center, North Coast Opportunities, and Yuba Community College were significant supporters, along with many others. Many local dignitaries and agency directors attended the event, and presented awards to the honorees.

Nearly 40 providers were nominated in recognition of commitment to excellence by their peers, community members and the families they serve. Winners were selected based on a detailed interview and evaluation process that took into consideration education, commitment to their profession, answers to specific interview questions, and effectiveness in their role as educators.

Early childhood educators contribute significantly to our communities. Quality early childhood education dramatically impacts high school graduation rates, keeps our communities working, and helps Lake County develop productive, effective, happy citizens of the future.

Congratulations to the 2011 Early Childhood Educators of the Year:

Leading the Field Award

Yaquelin Sandoval, Lake County Office of Education

Outstanding Special Needs Inclusion

Loralee Ivory, Meadowbrook Head Start

Provider of the Year (Infant/Toddler)

Regina Amaral, The Hillcrest House

Provider of the Year (Family Child Care/Private Center)

Lisa Meador, Sugar Pine Preschool

Honorable Mention: Marci Psalmonds, Training Wheels Preschool

Provider of the Year (Preschool)

Denise Villalobos, Meadowbrook Head Start

Honorable Mentions: Martha Hunter, Robinson Rancheria Preschool

Lesa Serrano, Lucerne Early Connection Preschool

Provider of the Year (School Age)

Barbara Montalvan, Pomo Kid Connection After School Program

SuperFly Award

Angel Whitson, Middletown Early Connection Preschool

Slobodanka Toshich, The Learning House

Lifetime Achievement Award

Tom Jordan, First 5 Lake

Child, Family, Community Advocacy Organization Award

Lake County Healthy Start (pictured at top left receiving their award from Tom Jordan)



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LAKE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

TO TEACH. TO SERVE. TO LEARN.

All Lake County scenery photos courtesy of Juan Huerta.