

2017 Annual Report

California Civic Learning Partnership Committee
of Butte County

History

Governance

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye teamed with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to establish the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning. The Task Force was charged with making recommendations elevating the status of civic learning in schools, so that all students in California gain the knowledge, skills and values they need to protect and participate in our republic. The Task Force was overseen by the Power of Democracy Steering Committee. The Power of Democracy Steering Committee formed in July 2013 and was charged with implementing policies on civic education adopted by the Judicial Council. The Power of Democracy Steering Committee accepted the Task Force's final report, *Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning In California: A Blueprint for Action*, released in August 2014.

Butte County is one of six pilot counties that was selected to create a local Civic Learning Partnership committee to develop and implement a plan for promoting civic learning in their county. The Butte County Civic Learning Partnership was formed in February 2015 with the goal of developing civic literacy, disposition and participation of all K-12 students by integrating the *Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning* into instructional practice and school life, and also by providing civic learning models and resources that can be used by teachers and schools. The committee's work and achievements during the third year of this two-year pilot program are outlined in this 2017 Annual Report.

The California Civic Learning Partnership (CCLP) of Butte County is a nonpartisan committee consisting of approximately sixty well-respected leaders in Butte County. The committee is led by Judge Kristen A. Lucena of the Butte County Superior Court, Tim Taylor, Butte County Superintendent of Schools and Jack Danielson, Regional Vice President - California of the Horace Mann Companies. Members of the CCLP of Butte County include judges, the District Attorney, a County Supervisor, City Council members, Representatives from Senator's, Assemblyman's, and Congressman's offices, lawyers, local business owners, former and current high school principals and administrators, members of the League of Women Voters, teachers and high school students.

Since the 2016 Annual Report was issued in February 2017, there have been two additional full committee meetings: March 3, 2017 and December 7, 2017.

Policy Setting

The CCLP of Butte County previously announced that all fourteen of the county's fourteen school districts and the Butte County Office of Education adopted civic learning resolutions aimed at supporting a comprehensive civic learning curriculum and programs in all K-12 schools in Butte County, making it the first county in the state in which all school districts have adopted civic learning resolutions. This was quite an achievement for the CCLP of Butte County and provided the support necessary to further develop the

programs and reach additional K-12 students. The passage of these fifteen resolutions has continued to directly impact over 31,000¹ K-12 students countywide.

Programs

The members of the CCLP of Butte County spent the first year focused on developing four distinct programs that would incorporate and interact with the six proven practices in civic education. In its second and third years, the CCLP has maintained its original four programs, including the Student Voter Education program which was renamed the Civic Education program to promote a broader focus on civic learning. The CCLP also developed a new subcommittee for National History Day. It is the CCLP's belief that each of the six proven practices are represented within the programs. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and economics; service learning projects tied to the curriculum; simulations of democratic processes; extracurricular activities that have a strong civic dimension; student participation in school governance, and discussions of current events and controversial topics.

I. Mentoring Civic Engagement

The Mentoring Civic Engagement program has continued to grow and thrive throughout 2017. The goal of the program has been to promote civic engagement amongst high school students through mentorship programs that focus on government, business, and leadership. Students acquire knowledge of how community issues and problems are addressed and solved by local government.

The program is driven by actively engaged teachers, administrators, citizens, and civic leaders such as business owners and government administrators, who are willing to provide resources and facilities for simulated/mock city council and county government meetings. Students in a particular school or organization such as the Boys and Girls Club, are offered the opportunity to participate in an organized simulation in their community. Those students that are interested are connected with program mentors. At the first of two meetings, students work with mentors to identify community issues that the students are most concerned about and would like to address in the simulation. A mock agenda and budget are drafted from those discussions by CCLP members, and used in the second meeting which is the actual simulation of a town council, city council, or Board of Supervisors meeting.

Achievements:

a. **Paradise High School (Paradise)** – On May 17th and 18th Paradise High School's Government and AP Government class students were able to engage in a mock town council meeting in their respective Government classes with the assistance of CCLP members who spent two periods onsite at the high school mentoring the students. The agenda for this simulation included issues selected by the students, such as funding a safe and accessible teen center in the town of Paradise for teens after school and on weekends. Students also discussed developing more employment and internship opportunities for youth within the town, and explored how developing a community partnership could help.

¹ <http://www.ed-data.org/county/Butte>



II. Mock Trial

A scholastic mock trial is an academic event imitating the legal process and is used for teaching students about court trials and the judicial branch. It promotes the comprehension and due process of a trial in the legal system through academic competition by student emulation of legal professionals such as attorneys, judges, court staff, and playing the part of the accused or witnesses.

The Mock Trial Program has continued to provide this learning opportunity for Butte County students with the continued support of its subcommittee and other community partners. The Mock Trial subcommittee would like to enhance the program by encouraging participation in all schools in Butte County to include curriculum related to the judicial branch from kindergarten to high school, and to ultimately answer the question of why rules and fairness are valuable in a child's life.

The subcommittee's work emphasizes two different programs:

High School Mock Trial - Each spring, local high schools compete in a mock trial sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. The year-long program introduces a criminal case with variances that allow high school students to learn how to prepare opening arguments, argue pretrial motions, and examine witnesses. With the assistance of CCLP of Butte County members and school advisors, each team consists of lawyers, witnesses, and courtroom staff. The Butte County competition takes place at the Butte County Superior Court with a Superior Court judge presiding and deciding the matter. The winning team then moves onto a state competition, and potentially to the National High School Mock Trial event.

Elementary Mock Trial - At the third and fifth grade school levels, participating teachers incorporate a classroom mock trial simulation within the current curriculum. The students are taught the three branches of government, roles in a courtroom, and the flow of a trial. Currently, each April or May, elementary students from local schools in Butte County participate in Law Day with a mock trial simulation at the Butte County Superior Court.

Achievements:

a. **High School Mock Trial (LPHS/PVHS)** – The Butte County Office of Education, in conjunction with the Butte County Superior Court, hosted the annual high school mock trial competition in March 2017. Each school actively engaged in preparing the students with the assistance of attorney mentors and the school advisor. The program included approximately twenty (20) students from Las Plumas High School and approximately twenty (20) students from Pleasant Valley High School.

b. **Elementary School Mock Trial (Chico Country Day School/Notre Dame Catholic School)** – On April 10, 2017 two mock trials were held at the North Butte County Courthouse in celebration of Law Day. A Superior Court judge presided and approximately thirty-nine (39) students participated. A

classroom visit by a Superior Court Judge and local high school students on March 27, 2017 preceded the trial.

c. **Mock Trial Script Writing Project** – Over the course of six weeks, high school students representing four high schools (PVHS, CHS, PHS, Inspire) met two hours per week at the North Butte County Courthouse to draft the mock trial script for use by elementary school students. On March 27, 2017, prior to the Elementary School Mock Trial Simulation at the courthouse, Judge Lucena and high school student writers, visited the elementary school classes to present on the three branches of government, checks and balances, the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as provide an overview of what the students could expect on their fieldtrip to the courthouse.



III. Justice Sayings Classroom Unit

There are seventy-five (75) historic Justice Sayings (quotes) etched in stainless steel plates embedded in the floor throughout the North Butte County Courthouse in Chico. Each saying identifies the source or individual and the date in which it was written or spoken. Quotes range from California Civil Code, to United States presidents, to important political figures, and other popular cultural personalities all with various thoughts on justice and law.

The Justice Sayings Classroom Unit focuses on encouraging teachers to bring students on a tour of the courthouse and use the Justice Sayings as an emphasis for future educational opportunities, such as essays, research, and presentations determined by the age groups and grade levels of the students. The idea behind this unit is to bring to life the ideals of great democratic thinkers (philosophers, writers, and leaders) throughout history as a way to introduce students to the judicial branch of government in Butte County.

The target grades for the program are 3rd, 5th, 8th, and 12th. Ideally, teachers will bring their students to the North Butte County Courthouse in the fall semester. During the visit, the students spend twenty to thirty (20-30) minutes to view and read the quotes located in the courthouse and make a paper

“rubbing” of the stainless steel tiles throughout the building; students spend fifteen to twenty (15-20) minutes with a Superior Court judge and take a short tour. Once back at school, students will prepare a presentation, essay or research paper, depending on grade level. Additional grade appropriate activities could be added such as finding an additional quote by the same author, finding a related quote, and for older students - a competition may be an option. The Court developed a *Justice Sayings Project: Educator’s Guide* for educators to use with their students that includes: a map of the North Butte County Courthouse (NCCH) identifying the location of each quote, a brief description of the context of each quote, suggestions for essay topics and further research, and references.

Achievements:

- a. **Elementary Class (Chico Country Day School)** – On April 10, 2017 approximately twenty-one (21) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building.
- b. **Elementary Class (Notre Dame Catholic School)** – On April 10, 2017 approximately eighteen (18) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building.

IV. Civic Education (Formally Student Voter Education)

The CCLP of Butte County believes that it is important to focus on connecting teachers and students with educational resources and announcements through technology. In order to facilitate this concept, the CCLP of Butte County developed the new Civic Education subcommittee. The goal of the subcommittee is to provide teachers with valuable resources and make them aware of potential activities in which their students can engage. The idea is to send a “blast” of information via email and/or Twitter. Emails that are sent out will contain lists of helpful resources for teachers and highlight important dates and events such as Constitution Day and Law Day. With multiple mediums of communication, the subcommittee will be able to disseminate valuable information more effectively throughout Butte County.

In 2017, a committee generated email detailing ideas and resources for Constitution Day as well as quarterly Newsletters from the Power of Democracy were sent out via email. “We are a group of educators, local court officials, business owners, community members, and university faculty that are committed to promoting and advocating for high-quality civic education at all grade levels,” Dr. Frances L. Kidwell and Debbie Travers wrote, marking the beginning of email communication between our committee and our schools. This initiative is still being developed and will need additional support to fully implement.

V. History Day

In 2017, Co-Chair Superintendent Tim Taylor and the Butte County Office of Education took the initiative to bring the National History Day educational program to Butte County. National History Day is a program built on active project-based learning, which encourages students from elementary to high school age, to explore local, state, national, and world history. Students select a historical topic that relates to

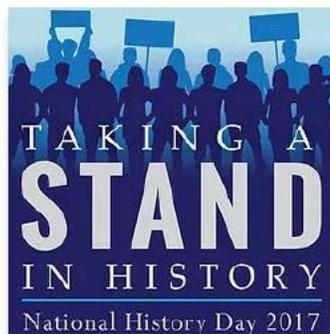
an annual theme, and conduct extensive research utilizing resources such as libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews. Students analyze and interpret their findings, which allows them to draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history. From this they create final projects of their work that can be entered into a series of competitions ranging from local to national levels.

Butte County hosted its first National History Day competition on March 25, 2017 at Durham High School. This competition had middle school students participate and compete in a variety of history events. Students who are majoring in history at California State University, Chico were invited to help organize the event and act as judges. The winners of the event included students from Achieve Charter School in Paradise and many advanced to the state competition held at William Jessup University in Rocklin on May 6-7, 2017.

Four students from Achieve School in Paradise attended the CCLP of Butte County committee meeting on December 7, 2017 to share their experience participating in Butte County's History Day, as well as advancing to the state competition, with CCLP members.

An award was presented to Rindy DeVoll (BCOE) by the CCLP for her leadership and facilitation of Butte County's National History Day. Rindy DeVoll, Achieve's Casey Taylor (Principal), and Kelli Gordon (Teacher) were instrumental to the success of this historic event. Special thanks to CCLP members who volunteered to be judges for the students' entries.

Preparations are well underway for Butte County's 2018 National History Day. The 2018 Butte County National History Day will be held March 3, 2018 at Nelson Avenue Middle School in Oroville. The theme is Conflict and Compromise in History.



VI. Noteworthy

a. **February 3, 2017** – Butte County Superior Court released the CCLP of Butte County’s 2016 Annual Report.

b. **February 24, 2017** – Honorable Kristen Lucena, Kelly Mortensen (Court) and Rindy DeVoll (BCOE) attended the Civic Learning Summit in Sacramento on February 14, 2017. Speakers included Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, State Board of Education President Michael Kirst and others – including students from schools across the state that have been the recipients of civic learning awards. A working session meeting followed at the 3rd District Court of Appeal in which Judge Kristen A. Lucena spoke to Courts and Offices of Education from across the state that are interested in starting their own Civic Learning Partnerships.

c. **March 6, 2017** – Butte County Office of Education hosted the 2017 Butte County Office of Education Art Show at the North Butte County Courthouse. The Art Show included an awards presentation for participating students by the Superintendent of Schools and CCLP co-chair Tim Taylor, and a reception followed in which local students provided live music.

d. **March 25, 2017** – Butte County hosted its first National History Day Competition at Durham High School. The theme was “Taking a Stand” and entries included written essays, story boards, and digital media.

e. **May 1, 2017** – In honor of Law Day, Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye selected Butte County Civic Learning Partnership to receive the Chief Justice's Exemplary Service and Leadership Award.

f. **August 2017** – Judicial Council of California released “Civics Movement Gains Ground” article featuring Butte County.

g. **December 2017** – Judge Kristen A. Lucena presented at Beyond the Bench 24 - Uniting for a Better Future in San Diego regarding Butte County’s Civic Learning Partnership. This multidisciplinary statewide conference is devoted to meaningful physical, remote, and equal access to the justice system for those involved—voluntarily or involuntarily—with the court system. The conference brings together over 1,200 participants—including judges, local, state, and tribal court leaders, attorneys, probation officers, social workers, family court professionals, court users, researchers, policy makers, volunteers, and other court-related professionals from across California. Judge Lucena’s presentation entitled, “One Court’s Story: Butte County’s Civic Learning Partnership” provided an overview of the committee’s efforts since being selected as one of six counties to pilot the program in December 2014.

Other CCLP Member Accomplishments

In addition to the CCLP developed programs, committee members have actively embraced a variety of other civic activities:

- a. High School Leadership Luncheons (PVHS/CHS/PHS/OHS) – Butte County Superior Court Judges and numerous CCLP committee members have continued their annual High School Leadership Luncheons program. The luncheons bring together high achieving high school seniors interested in government with Superior Court judges and local leaders in an informal

setting. The luncheons provide a platform to commend the achievements of exceptional students, as well as provide guidance to enhance their future endeavors. Students learn firsthand experiences from community leaders and discover what inspired them to choose their specific career paths. The atmosphere prompts enthusiasm and encourages civic engagement for students to explore roles of opportunity in their community. This year approximately forty (40) students participated and represented four high schools: Pleasant Valley High School, Chico High School, Paradise High School, and Oroville High School. Plans are underway to expand the Leadership Luncheon program to include two additional schools; bringing the total number of schools to six and covering all five of the county's regions.



“This is a powerful meeting. The Connection between these two parties of professionals and students is palpable. I am thankful for the support and benevolence of the professionals who attend and give back to our youth.” Mark Beebe Principal, Chico High School.

- b. CLIC Visits – Members of Chico State’s Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) have increased the frequency of their educational visits to the courthouses. CLIC members visited in March, June, October and November. CLIC is a student-run, non-profit organization that provides legal information to students and community members. Visits include observation of a court calendar that is followed by a Q and A session with a judge, as well as a presentation by the Court’s Self Help and Referral Program’s (SHARP) Managing Attorney.
- c. Little Chico Creek Elementary School Outstanding Citizenship Ceremony - In June 2017, Judge Lucena along with Sheriff Kory Honea and Chico Police Chief Mike O’Brien presented awards at the Little Chico Creek Elementary School citizenship awards ceremony. New CCLP member AJ Haggard began this grassroots outreach activity with Little Chico Creek Elementary School to honor students who exemplify the following traits: engaged, responsible, and respectful.
- d. CCLP member Juleah Cordi with Assemblyman Gallagher’s office participates every semester in the CSU Chico Townhall which provides students with a public arena for discussing current policy issues with other students, faculty, administrators, and community members.
- e. Achieve Charter School continues to be a leader in Civic Learning. 2017 activities illustrating the school’s implementation of the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning include:
 1. Socratic seminars, academic debates, and fishbowl discussions in middle school classrooms.
 2. Participation in the National History Day competition.
 3. Cross-curricular project based units such as the Iron Giraffe Challenge. Students walk three miles to the closest local water source to raise money to build wells in Sudan during a cross-curricular unit where they read *A Walk to Water* by Salva Dut, while researching access to clean water globally and creating water filtration systems.
 4. Utopian Society Project: While reading the novel *The Giver*, students are challenged to examine the ideals the American government was based upon in their attempts to create their own utopian society to present to a panel of community members.

5. Implementation of the MyVote Program, which is a student mock election program led by middle school administrators, teachers, and students.
6. Emphasis on community service and interaction. Students and their teachers helped assemble Christmas baskets for the needy through the local church, participated in community Youth Summits through Paradise Citizen's Alliance, and attended Youth Symposiums at the State Capitol during California Charter School Association's charter school week.
7. On campus service is met through the use of Morning Greeters. When vehicles pull up to Achieve during the morning drop-off, a middle school student is there to greet children and assist them in exiting the vehicle. Recyclers visit classrooms weekly and clean-up crew gets the multi-purpose room set-up and broken down when needed. Volunteers work in the school garden. Student aides run centers in kindergarten and first grade daily.
8. Student input drives school culture – Through the use of student surveys, students chose the mascot and wrote school song. Achieve students created the "Wildcat Buddy" award and choose K-5 and 6-8 recipients weekly.

Future

The future looks bright for the CCLP of Butte County. Co-Chair Kristen A. Lucena was appointed by the Chief Justice to the Power of Democracy Steering Committee and will be launching a new pilot program named Judges in the Classroom. More information will be forthcoming.

Chico State, Butte College and Butte Schools all have agreed to a county-wide promise to increase career, college and civic learning through the Butte County Promise. There will be a Countywide signing in late January.

A Community Breakfast entitled Promoting Civic Engagement Through Education for current and prospective members will be held in February to discuss next steps. Speakers will include Justice Judith McConnell and CCLP member Grandmaster Farshad Azad. The goal will be to generate fresh ideas on how the CCLP of Butte County can continue to support and encourage civic education in Butte County.

And as always, members of the CCLP of Butte County will continue to strive to improve the quality and effectiveness of civic learning in schools by focusing on strengthening and growing its programs. It is the committee's desire that the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning are implemented and that together we will:

1. Provide instruction in government, history, law and democracy;
2. Discuss current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important in their lives;
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction;

4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities;
5. Encourage student participation in school governance; and
6. Encourage students' participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

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