

Golden Spotlight:

As we continue with our district recognitions this evening we are looking to celebrate a wonderful teacher. Tonight we are recognizing Ms. Alexa Lepp.

The 2022 Los Angeles County Teachers of the Year is an honors competition to spotlight teaching excellence and exemplary professionalism in public education.

The competition is the largest of its kind in the state and is part of the oldest and most prestigious honors contest in the U.S. for public school teachers.

The Teacher of the Year program, which features an annual luncheon recognition each September for all participants, is designed to provide much-deserved recognition for teachers. Those selected by LACOE as County Teachers of the Year—educators who have shown exemplary dedication, compelling classroom practices, positive accomplishments and professional commitment—serve as standard-bearers for the teaching profession and their 72,000 classroom colleagues countywide.

On September 23rd our very own Ms. Alexa Lepp was honored as part of the TOP 16 teachers in Los Angeles County.

Alexa has been in education for ten years with a background in teaching students across 5th-12th grade. This marks her 5th year working for AADUSD (the first 2 years as a 5th grade teacher at High Desert and the past 2 years as a TOSA at VHS). What drives her to be in education is her love for connection, collaboration, and creativity.

She loves being able to connect and collaborate with students, families, and colleagues. She also loves being able to utilize her creativity in this profession- She see teachers as being more like designers in education, incorporating life skills. Teaching is one of the most personal professions in the world, where you can make lifelong impact. Needless to say you have found your calling, Alexa!

We are so very proud of you! A big round of applause for Ms. Alexa Lepp!

Superintendent report for October 11, 2022:

Before I begin my report, I'd like to share our community minded announcements

- 1) Tomorrow, October 14th, representatives from non-profits or state and local government are invited to attend the Community Project Funding Workshop,

hosted by Congressman Mike Garcia. The purpose of this workshop is to provide information on how to pursue federal grant opportunities. For additional information, or to register please view your screen for contact information and a phone number.

- 2) In addition, we have a community minded announcement provided to us by our district's AV SELPA CAC (community advisory council) representative, Ms. Martin.

A CAC Parent Workshop on Effective Communication Strategies for IEP Meetings

Date: 10/17/22 Time: 5:00-6:30

Location: AV SELPA Office, in Palmdale, address on screen. We will have this posted on our district website as well.

Tonight I will cover three strategic initiatives: Student Achievement, Effective Instruction and Leadership, as well as Community Engagement.

Student Achievement:

- I'd like to provide a quick update for our High Desert 5th grade class with a long-term substitute teacher.

For a few weeks now, the 5th grade class has received push-in and preparatory support from two Teachers On Special Assignment (TOSA) 5-days a week. TOSAs have lent their support with lesson planning, classroom management and best practices.

Efforts will be heightened starting on Monday, with

- One TOSA split between RSP and SDC sections at HDS;
- A Credentialed teacher. Ms. Elizabeth to take on the long-standing 5th grade vacancy.
- Lastly, a split assignment for two TOSAs for the most recent 5th grade classroom vacancy at High Desert.

HR continues to recruit to fill existing vacancies. These interim changes won't derail our commitment to providing qualified teachers as well as providing heightened efforts of academic support by the TOSA team.

Effective Instruction and Leadership:

Received word last Friday evening that a U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance grant that I submitted was awarded to AADUSD: STOP School Violence.

The grant was awarded at \$1,000,000 for the span of three fiscal cycles.

The scope of work as part of the submitted narrative includes but not limited to:

- One full-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker. With the LCSW on board, we will be able to bring to the district Master of Social Work interns from local college and universities of expanded mental health coverage. The mental health scope of effort will build capacity in training staff to identify appropriate procedures and protocols with tier 3, heightened scenarios.
- A formal bullying prevention and character education curriculum for implementation at all schools;
- TIES (Trauma Informed Educator Skills) training for all staff which covers ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences) which lends itself to recognizing Chronic Trauma.

Training and professional development is a significant piece of this grant. As with all grants, sustainability of effort once the funding is key.

For instance, staff will be provided a course by the (NICP)- the National Institute of Crime Prevention. The basic training encompasses topics such as:

- Human Behavior
- Safety Barriers
- Lighting on campuses for Safety purposes
- Understanding of Site Plans
- Traffic Pattern Calming

Such training opportunities lend itself to building capacity within staff to carry the work forward once the funding is cycle ends.

Community Engagement:

- On Saturday, October 8th, the California High-Speed Rail Authority Railway held a public meeting at High Desert. Mr. Jorgensen, Mr. Pfalzgraf, and I attended. The Railway had their team of engineers and managers present an overview of the Palmdale to Burbank Project, along with environmental factors and next steps, plus an opportunity for stakeholder engagement.

-Additional handouts were brought back for tonight's meeting and can be found at the back of the room).

Thank you, this concludes my report.

COVID Report:

- Covid-19 claimed the lives of 65 people in LA County last week and 7,292 people reported testing positive.
- In the Acton and Agua-Dulce surrounding areas there have been 16 new cases since our last report.
- In our AADUSD school community we have had 6 reported positive cases since September 28th and exposure notifications have been sent for those exposures.
- As a reminder employees are no longer required to test unless they have symptoms of Covid-19.
- Due to low turnout our vaccination clinics have been discontinued. Please contact your provider, local pharmacy, or the LA county website if you want to get your Covid-19 vaccine.
- We encourage all our staff and students to research getting vaccinated with the new vaccine specifically targeting the variants.

· We are now entering Flu season and would recommend getting your flu shot and Covid-19 vaccine now to make sure we keep our students safe from the adverse effects of the Flu and Covid-19.

Thank you this concludes the COVID report.