

Colusa County Office of Education

Communicate ● Collaborate ● Operate ● Educate



2019's Colusa County Elementary Spelling Competitors

Important Dates

Click underlined dates for more information

February 1 & 24:
Paraeducator Assessments

February 2: "And Literacy For All" Story Time, 6pm

February 5: First 5 Colusa's ASQ Training

February 16: We Are Family Parent Meeting, 6-7:30pm

March 1: Colusa County Elementary Spelling Competition

Contact CCOE

Main Office
345 5th Street
Colusa, CA 95932
(530) 458-0350

Education Village
499 Margurite Street
Williams, CA 95987
(530) 473-1350

Colusa County Elementary Spelling Competition

Communications Department

The Colusa County Office of Education is pleased to announce the return of the Colusa County Elementary Spelling Competition, which is set to occur on Tuesday, March 1 at 3:30pm. Due to COVID-19, this competition, geared towards grades four through six, last occurred in March of 2019. Educational Services Director Lorilee Niesen will return as Spell Master, in addition to two guest judges. Ed Conrado, a CCOE Board of Education Trustee, will fill one judge slot, with the other soon to be determined. This year's event will be hosted in the CCOE Education Village Multipurpose Room, located at 499 Margurite Street in Williams.

The Elementary Spelling Competition is open to all students currently attending fourth through sixth grade at a district school or district-recognized home school program. Two students from each grade level at each school are invited to participate, and competitors will be chosen at the discretion of the districts. The top two winners at this year's Spelling Competition will then be eligible to represent Colusa County at the California State Spelling Bee on May 14 in Stockton, CA.





Message from the Superintendent

Michael P. West
Colusa County Superintendent of Schools

Happy New Year Colusa County! As we welcome in 2022, I want to take a moment to thank our educators. Teachers, school administrators, and site staff: it is because of your patience, valiant efforts, and versatility that our students have continued to receive high quality education during these challenging times. With the second half of the school year back in session, there is excitement and productivity on the horizon. I encourage each of you to stay positive as we work together to turn the page on this pandemic. Stay strong, stay optimistic, and take care.



Self-Care Parent Engagement Meeting

Prevention Services Department



The Prevention Services team is excited to offer another meaningful opportunity for parents of Colusa County to engage with and support one another. The "We Are Family/Entre Familia" series is set to continue February 16, focusing on the subject of Self-Care. The program will take place in the CCOE Education Village Multipurpose Room from 6:00-7:30pm. A light dinner will be provided, and participants will not only take home beneficial resources, but forge bonds with parents from their own communities. To register for this free event, contact Prevention Services Coordinator Claudia Deniz at (530) 473-1350 ext. 10327 or cdeniz@ccoe.net.

Technology Services Moves to New Location

Technology Services Department

Previously located at CCOE's main office at 345 5th Street, CCOE's Technology Services team has moved to a new location. Next door to the Colusa County Free Library, at 146 7th Street, is where you will find James, Kyle, and Alex, who make up the Technology Services Department. This move can be considered a homecoming for the team, as the 7th Street office is where the department originally set up shop when it was formed. Additionally, it is the location for the CCOE datacenter that connects all of the schools in Colusa County. A grand opening ceremony is currently being planned, but in the meantime the office will be open Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.



Welcome CCOE New Hires!

Juan Floriano Muniz
Paraeducator, SELPA/SPED

Estefania Floriano Muniz
Paraeducator, SELPA/SPED

Esmeralda Guerrero
Paraeducator, SELPA/SPED

Tanner Bloom
Farm to School Lab Supervisor,
Educational Services

Ages & Stages Questionnaire Training

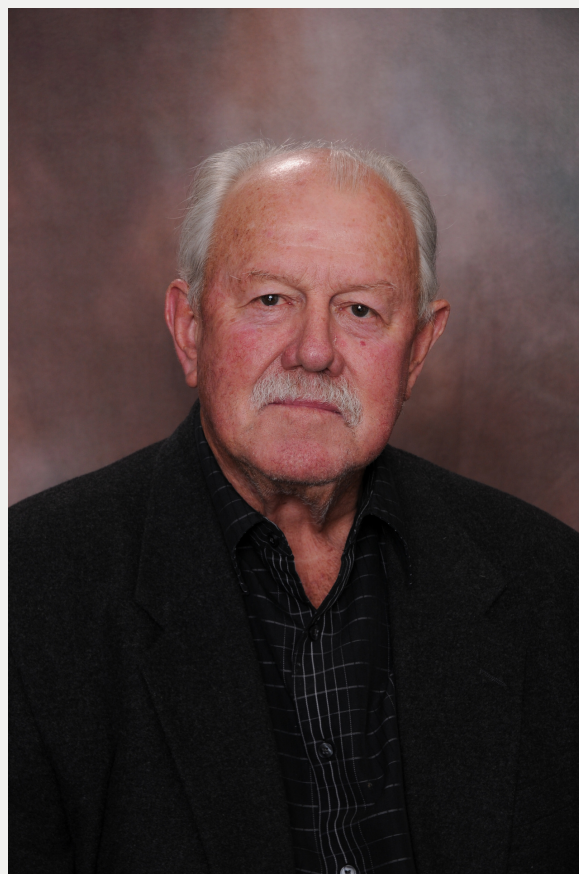
First 5 Colusa



First 5 Colusa Children & Families Commission is offering a free training for licensed family child care providers on Saturday, February 5 from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Participants will learn about the ASQ-3 Development Screening Tool and the ASQ:SE Social Emotional Screening Tool. Additionally, providers will grasp the importance of screening children, practice the steps to administer, score, and interpret ASQ results, how to communicate results to families, and the process of referring Colusa County families. This training opportunity will occur at CCOE's main office located at 345 5th Street in Colusa. To register, interested participants should contact First 5 Colusa at (530) 458-5555. A stipend may be available to new participants. Space is limited; register today!

Featured Faces

CCOE Board of Education Trustee Barry Morrell has worked in the field of Education for 37 years, with six of those as a Trustee of the Board. With a Bachelor's Degree in Education, Master's in Physical Education, and an Administration Credential under his belt, he has served a variety of positions at various levels within the school setting. Barry began his career at Weed High School (CA) as a Remedial Reading Teacher, while at the same time coaching baseball and football. He continued in the classroom for 17 years teaching various subjects, before going into school administration. There, he served as a Superintendent for 12 years and a Principal for eight. It was the Principal position that brought Barry to Colusa County; specifically to Pierce High School. Additionally during his time in school administration, three of the schools he led earned the title of "California Distinguished School." As a Trustee, Barry has enjoyed serving the citizens of Colusa County and the opportunity "to offer them some of my experience learned in the field of education," he said. He and his wife (Dee), who was also an educator for 35 years, also like the rural atmosphere and friendly nature of the county. The pair have two daughters (Cindy & Megan), and outside of Board duties he enjoys "spoiling my daughters and granddaughter," he added. Barry also loves to golf and travel.



Trustee Barry Morrell
CCOE Board of Education



Featured Faces

Superintendent Carol Geyer has worked in education for over 34 years, with her first position at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Colusa teaching Second Grade. The following year she transitioned to the role of Kindergarten Teacher at Arbuckle Elementary School. While teaching, Carol earned her Administrative Credential and Master's Degree in Education from Sacramento State University. Throughout her career she has gained additional experience in the positions of Reading Teacher, Math Coach, New Teacher Mentor, Vice Principal, Principal, and for the last seven and a half years as Superintendent for the district. What Carol likes most about her career is the evolving nature of educational research and how this research allows educators to improve what they put into practice. She also added that "working in education is extremely fulfilling as you think about the impact you can have on children and their futures." When not working, Carol loves spending time with her husband of 36 years (Andy), their three children, and three grandchildren (Bella, Mila, Luke). The family also cares for three cats (Schnookie, Kiki, Fast), and 11 hens that supply the crew with eggs. Additionally, Carol likes to cook and bake in her spare time.



Superintendent Carol Geyer
Pierce Joint Unified School District



Principal Michelle Jorge
Williams Elementary School

Williams Elementary School Principal Michelle Jorge has worked in education for over 35 years. Starting her career in San Jose as a Second Grade Teacher, Michelle moved to Williams in 1990 to become a Special Education Teacher for CCOE at Williams Jr. Sr. High School. In 1997, Michelle began teaching First and Second Grade at Williams Elementary School, and later became a Reading Specialist and an Instructional Coach before her promotion to Principal in 2021. What she loves most about working in education are the interactions with students, individualizing approaches to teaching, and working with her staff. "As a teacher, we make a difference in the lives of students daily," she said. "Students rely on us for not only educational support, but socio-emotional support as well," she added. Outside of work, Michelle likes to go boating and explore the waterways of the Delta, relax in the sun, and travel. She hopes to one day visit every state in the United States. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, their two daughters (who are also teachers), grandchildren, and the family's Golden Retriever dog (Bayley).

Department Spotlight: Educational Services

Meet some of the team!



Jennifer



Jesus



Lorilee



Estefania



Claudia

Lorilee Niesen **Educational Services Director**

Educational Services Director Lorilee Niesen has worked in Education for 32 years. She began her career as a teacher at Round Valley, Galt, and Willits High Schools before spending 14 years at Maxwell Unified School District. Lorilee then took a position at the Sacramento County Office of Education as the Career Technical Education Coordinator, before landing her current role at CCOE. She has been employed at CCOE for four years, and in her role as Educational Services Director, she also wears the hat of Principal of S. William Abel Academy and the Colusa County Adult School. Lorilee's favorite part of working in Education is her relationship with students, staff and colleagues. She also looks forward to "improving myself, expanding programs, and leading others" on a daily basis, she said. Outside of the office, Lorilee enjoys spending time with her two sons (Justin & JC), daughters-in-law, granddaughter, and grandson. She also cares for a 12-year old Yorkshire Terrier dog (Hattie) and six horses (Mitch, Buck, Dee, Viper, Bueno, Buster). Competing with her horses in team-roping is one of her favorite hobbies, along with snow skiing, and spoiling her grandchildren.

Jesus Ramos **Program Technician**

An employee of CCOE for two years, Jesus Ramos was appointed Educational Services' Program Technician in October 2021, and before this role, held the position of Administrative Assistant. Before his employment at CCOE, Jesus gained experience in the areas of HR, Payroll, and Personnel at Olam Tomato Processors. Working in Educational Services has allowed him the ability to experience a variety of tasks and responsibilities, with each day presenting new opportunities. This diversity of duties is what Jesus enjoys the most about his job. "You are never working on or doing the same thing as you were the day before," he said. When not at work, Jesus likes to visit with friends and family, play with his cat (Mittens), try new foods, and experience sporting events and concerts.

Jennifer Ramirez Perez **Administrative Assistant**

A 2019 UC Davis graduate, Jennifer Ramirez Perez holds a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and has worked at CCOE for a little over two years. Starting in CCOE's Children's Services department, Jennifer recently made the transition to Educational Services. One of Jennifer's favorite aspects of working for CCOE is her ability to "give back to this wonderful community," she stated. In her current role, Jennifer applies her knowledge and vast experience working in state and federal subsidized programs. When she is not assisting CCOE's Adult Education and Prevention Services teams, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family, going on hikes, shopping, and reading a good book.

Estefania Guillen Aceves **Prevention Services Supervisor**

Prevention Services Supervisor Estefania Guillen Aceves has worked at CCOE for just under a year. Originally filling the role of Prevention Services Coordinator, Estefania was promoted to the supervisory position last summer. Prior to her employment at CCOE, she held the position of Internship Coordinator at Williams Unified School District, where she created an Internship Program and an on-site Family Resource Center. With a CSU Sacramento Bachelor's Degree in Family and Consumer Sciences, and while currently working on a Master's Degree in Marriage, Child, and Family Therapy, Estefania uses her knowledge and experience to make positive impacts on those she works with and serves. "I love being part of great teams and collaborating for the greater good," she stated. When not working, Estefania spends time with her husband and their two dogs (Peppy & Sammy). She also enjoys traveling (especially to the Caribbean), jigsaw puzzles, karaoke, dancing, and binge-watching Netflix shows.

Claudia Deniz **Prevention Services Coordinator**

Claudia Deniz has worked in CCOE's Educational Services Department for a little over two years, getting her start in the role of Program Support Technician. She has held the position of Prevention Services Coordinator for 5 months, and prior to her employment at CCOE, worked as a licensed Health, Life, and Accident Insurance Agent. Currently working on her degree in Social Science, Claudia one day aspires to become a licensed Social Worker. When asked what she likes most about CCOE, Claudia said that she enjoys "the impact I can make in the lives of individuals as well as in the community." Claudia also attributes a family-like work environment as one of her favorite aspects of working in Educational Services. Outside of work, Claudia likes to spend time with her husband (Miguel) and their French Bulldog (Macy). Hobbies include baking, crocheting, crafting, and makeup artistry.

Department Spotlight: Educational Services

Meet some of the team!



Heather



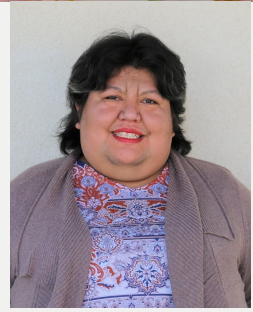
Toni



Maria



Cecilia



Patricia

Heather Wilson-Jensen **RN Program Director**

A graduate of Sacramento City College's Registered Nurse (RN) Program, Heather Wilson-Jensen has worked in the medical field since 2007. With experience in acute care, medical-surgical, pediatrics, long-term care/post-acute, education, and management, Heather has put her knowledge to great use running CCOE's Certified Nursing Assistant Program for almost two years. What Heather most enjoys about the nursing field is working with people and creating a positive impact in her community. She also loves "educating my students, patients and families," she said. Originally from the Sacramento area, Heather married a Colusa-County native, and the pair have two children (Ruby, aged 11 & Max, aged two). The family enjoys the company of their dog (Rosie) and two cats (Giraffe & Bob). Outside of work, Heather loves reading, camping, hiking, kayaking, fishing, taking walks, riding horses, and viewing art shows, plays, musicals, and concerts.

Toni Rangel **Child Aide**

Toni Rangel has worked at CCOE for 23 years, and began her career in education 5 years prior at a preschool in Idaho. With a background in early childhood development and special education, Toni began her journey at CCOE as a part-time Child Aide in the *Second Step* and PIP program, while at the same time working part time at Colusa Unified School District. Toni's favorite part of her job is working with students of all ages. When not at work, she loves spending time with her husband of 36 years, their three children, and six grandchildren. Toni's hobbies also include cooking, gardening, and relaxing.

Cecilia Lopez **Child Aide**

Educational Services' Child Aide Cecilia Lopez is a graduate of Woodland Community College with an AA in Social and Behavioral Science, and also holds an Associate Teacher Certificate. She is currently in her last year at Sacramento State University where she is majoring in Social Science, and minoring in History. Her favorite part of teaching is interacting with the children and the support she receives from other teachers. Outside of work, Cecilia enjoys spending time with her husband and their dog (Zac), visiting family, hiking, and watching documentaries.

Patricia Pinedo **Alternative Education Teacher**

Teaching at CCOE's S. William Abel Academy for two years, Patricia Pinedo has spent time in the field of education for a total of 11. Starting her career as a substitute teacher and paraeducator at Fairwood Elementary School in Sunnyvale (CA), Patricia went on to gain experience as a teacher at the Harry P.B. Carden School in Yuba City. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching, and what she most loves about education is the "day to day challenge of learning and experiencing life with my students," she stated. Additionally, Patricia enjoys class discussions and treating each day as a brand new day for learning. When not teaching, Patricia loves to spend time with her three-year-old Chihuahua dog (Sophie). She also delights in sparking her own creativity by singing, writing songs, and playing music. Before starting her career in education, Patricia had aspirations to become a singer, but she feels she has found her true calling as a teacher.

Maria Iniguez **Child Aide**

Maria Iniguez has had a lengthy career working as a child aide, first starting out at a private child care center while still in high school. "Working at the child center gave me the tools and experience I needed to move further with my career," she said. Maria did further her career, first working at CCOE's former Maxwell State Preschool and then moving into her current position as a Child Aide for the *Second Step Program* at Williams Elementary School. She has been part of the CCOE family for 17 years, and loves helping students to understand their emotions and find healthy ways to express themselves. Married for 18 years, Maria and her husband have four children. The family relishes taking road trips and vacations, and watching movies together at home. Maria also likes to go on hikes and the occasional shopping trip.

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the QR code to see
current job openings!

