

# Colusa County Office of Education

Communicate ● Collaborate ● Operate ● Educate



Photographs from Educational Services Pink October & Children's Services Family Night Events

## Important Dates

Click underlined dates for more information

**November 1 & 18:**  
Paraeducator Assessments

**November 3:** "And Literacy For All" Story Time, 6pm

**November 3:** We Are Family Parent Meeting, 6-7:30pm

**November 6:** Community Resource Fair, 10am-2pm

**November 20 & 21:** Healing California Visit, 8am-5pm

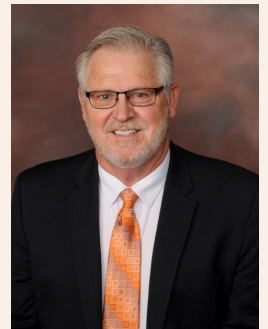
## Contact CCOE

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

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

## Superintendent West Featured Speaker at National Education Event

Colusa County Superintendent of Schools Michael P. West was a featured speaker at the California County Superintendent Roundtable that took place on October 26. Along with superintendents from San Benito, San Bernardino, and Napa Counties, Superintendent West discussed "Successful Strategies for Addressing Learning Loss in the Era of COVID." Specifically, West addressed CCOE's "And Literacy For All" (ALFA) initiative and its key concepts of early and intergenerational literacy through the Footsteps2Brilliance program. Other aspects of ALFA were discussed, such as the importance of family and community engagement, the building of home libraries with bicultural books, and the beneficial connection to one's local library. Since 2019, ALFA has distributed 70,523 children's books, lent 705 iPads equipped with Footsteps2Brilliance software to county families, and conducted over 60 virtual story times through digital platforms. Additionally, children have read just under 105 million words. As a result of these efforts, in the 2020-2021 school year students in the preschool to 3rd grade age range achieved an increased proficiency across the literacy domains of phonological awareness, phonics, logic & reasoning, language, and reading comprehension by an average of 8%, marking an average countywide proficiency in literacy of 81%.





## Healing California Looking for Volunteers

### *Prevention Services*



Healing California, in partnership with CCOE's Prevention Services team, plans to visit the Education Village in Williams on November 20 & 21 from 8:00am - 5:00pm. Healing California provides free, quality dental and vision care to those in need in California through their mobile van service. Dental care includes cleanings, fillings, and extractions, and vision involves eye exams and free prescription glasses. Colusa County residents are invited to register for this event to take advantage of these free services; no prerequisite to care is required. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for this event or would like to register for care, please contact Claudia Deniz at (530) 473-1350. No volunteer experience is needed, and different shifts are available! Additionally, training and lunch will be provided.

## Home-Based Program Now Taking Applications

### *Children's Services*

Children's Services Home-Based Program is currently taking applications for services meant for expectant mothers and children aged birth to three. This program provides learning opportunities in a family's own home, and support to expectant families through weekly visits. Educators provide learning materials to each family and empower parents in their roles as their child's first teacher. Additionally, Home-Based offers monthly playgroups at CAPC Colusa County, located at 131 5th Street in Colusa. These playgroups offer socialization opportunities for children and the chance for families from the community to engage with one another. If you are interested in applying for the Home-Based program, contact Children's Services at (530) 458-0350.



Home-Based Educators  
Sonia Gil & Maria Ibarra

### Welcome CCOE New Hires!

**Paola Ayala Contreras**  
Teacher, Special Education

**Kristin Draves**  
Paraeducator, Special Education

**Raymond Echavarria**  
Paraeducator, Special Education

**Merry Seaver**  
Human Resources & Accounting

**Airaly Rolon**  
Assistant Teacher, Children's Services

**Maria Del Carmen Ibarra Landeros**  
Assistant Teacher, Children's Services

## Pink October Celebration

### *Educational Services*

Students at S. William Abel Academy learned about breast cancer awareness October 22 with a presentation and discussion about cancer risk factors for men and women. "One in eight women and seven percent of men get breast cancer each year in the United States alone," said the Academy's Alternative Education Teacher Patricia Pinedo. In a display of recognition and hope, students and Educational Services staff were invited to wear pink for the day. The group also enjoyed an after-lunch dessert of pink cookies and took home breast cancer awareness bracelets to share with family and friends.

# PROGRAM UPDATES

## California Department of Education STEAM Symposium *Children's Services*



Four Children's Services teachers had the opportunity to attend the California Department of Education STEAM Symposium October 21-23. STEAM is an approach to teaching and advanced learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics in all learning settings, including early learning practices. The symposium sessions combined powerful project-based learning, creativity, and fun experiences that positively impact learning in preschool and beyond. For more information about early educational services that Children's Services provides, contact the main office at (530) 458-0350.

## FEATURED FACES

### **Superintendent Summer Shadley**

#### ***Maxwell Unified School District***

After graduating from Maxwell High School in 2004, Maxwell Unified School District Superintendent Summer Shadley attended CSU, Chico where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and teaching credential. In 2012, Summer received a Masters in Educational Leadership and an Administrative Services Credential. After teaching in Fall River Mills for three years, Shadley moved back to Colusa County to work for Pierce Joint Unified School District. During those nine years at PJUSD, Summer taught second grade and became the Vice Principal before a six-year stint as Principal of Arbuckle Elementary. This is her second year as Maxwell Unified School District's Superintendent, and she also wears the hat of Maxwell High School Principal. This is Superintendent Shadley's 14th year in the field of education, and her love of the job stems from the students she works with.

Married for 12 years to her husband Rob, the pair have two children (Robert, Rachel), and a variety of animals at their family farm. "It's a regular funny farm!" Shadley stated. Animals include chickens, three ewe lambs (Jessica, Ruby, Cindy), two horses (Daisy, Gray), two un-named goats, one dog (Gracie), and one cat (Vivi). Summer enjoys working around the farm with her family when not at Maxwell Unified, in addition to hunting and cheering on her kids when they play sports.



### **Commissioner Merced Corona**

#### ***First 5 Colusa Children & Families Commission***

Arbuckle-native Merced Corona has had a life-long love for education and helping those in his community. Not only is this reflected in his work on the First 5 Commission, but he is also the Vice Chair for the Colusa County Board of Supervisors representing District 1, is an active member of the Knights of Columbus, coaches high school cross county, trains dozens of kids at his boxing club, and referees basketball games. "My love for education and helping young kids extends a very long time," he said. "My many years in law enforcement helped me to be a resource to young students." Merced's passion for education also extends to a great love for Colusa County, its farming and agriculture industry, and the friendly people who live here. When not actively engaged in community events or projects, Merced enjoys hobbies of coin collecting and weight lifting.







**Ginger Harlow**



**Kim Owens**



**Yesenia Moreno**



**Betty Huson**



**Nallely Maldonado**

## **Ginger Harlow** **Executive Director**

First 5 Colusa's Executive Director Ginger Harlow has worked at CCOE for 19 years. Starting at Children's Services as an Area Manager and the Coordinator of the Local Child Care Planning Council, Ginger became the Executive Director of First 5 in 2012. Prior to working at CCOE, Ginger obtained a degree in Child Development from CSU, Sacramento, and worked as a preschool teacher, center director, and social worker. Working with her staff and the families of Colusa County are Ginger's favorite aspects of her job. Seeing the fruits of First 5's labor is also a point of pride. "So much brain development occurs in the first five years that the work we do can really impact a child's development and future," she said. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her two children (Yale, aged 5 & Lilah, aged 3), Dachshund Watson, and the family fish Uber. Ginger also loves traveling, playing board games, cooking, hiking, collecting gnomes, seeing extended family, and can't pass up a good cup of coffee.

## **Yesenia Moreno** **Williams Family Action Center Program Assistant**

Before becoming a Program Assistant at the Williams Family Action Center, Yesenia Moreno worked in customer service for over six years and as a bank teller for three. Working with folks from different walks of life in those positions has "given me the ability to work with and understand the variety of people who come into our center," she said. She also enjoys helping the families she meets and seeing what a positive impact First 5 makes in their lives. When not at the WFAC, Yesenia loves watching shows on Netflix and spending time with her significant other of 11 years, their two-and-a-half year-old son, and the family rabbit Verde.

## **Betty Huson** **Williams Family Action Center Coordinator**

Betty Huson has worked as the Coordinator at the Williams Family Action Center for over 15 years, and has experience in literacy and social work. Her experiences have helped her mold the WFAC into a warm place of understanding, compassion, and a willingness to help families seeking services or assistance. Betty loves the fast-paced and ever-changing environment in which she works, and those she works with. "I truly enjoy my coworkers, volunteers, children, parents, families, and the community in which I am fortunate to be a part," she stated. Outside of the WFAC, Betty loves spending time with her two daughters, son-in-law, and six grandchildren [ages 15, 9, 8, 3, and 6 (twins)]. She also enjoys reading, watching movies, and doing puzzles.

## **Nallely Maldonado** **Administrative Program Coordinator**

First 5 Colusa's Administrative Program Coordinator Nallely Maldonado has worked at CCOE for 13 years. With a Bachelor's Degree in Child Development and Education from CSU, Sacramento, she hopes to one day earn a Master's in Administrative Education. Before working at First 5, Nallely gained experiences at Children's Services as an assistant teacher, preschool teacher, and a Home-Based educator. The friendships she has created with parents First 5 serves has been one of the most enjoyable parts of her job. When not working, Nallely loves working on DIY projects, crafts, gardening, cleaning and organizing her home, and watching Marvel or Harry Potter films. Most of all, she also enjoys spending time with husband Abel, and daughters Izabel and Gizelle.

## **Kim Owens** **Arbuckle Family Action Center Coordinator**

Arbuckle Family Action Center Coordinator Kim Owens has worked with First 5 Colusa for the last 15 years, and has a degree in Early Childhood Education. Her background also includes teaching opportunities at an Elementary School in Dixon, CA, and on the other side of the globe in India and Kazakhstan. Kim loves working in Colusa County, and so many aspects of her job. "We are able to come alongside children and their families, assist them in their development, provide concrete support in their time of need, and help them to build resiliency and strength for their current and future successes," Kim said. When not working, she enjoys gardening, bike riding, and kayaking. Kim also cherishes the time she spends with her three children, three grandchildren, golden Labrador retriever (Scarlet), and two cats (Shadow & Graycie).

We are hiring! Full-Time, Part-Time & Substitute Employment Opportunities.  
Contact Human Resources at (530) 458-0350  
or scan the QR code to see current job openings!



For newsletter inquiries,  
contact:  
Alissa Maas at  
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