



**INSIDE: SSOCC's School Safety Award ...
Regional HS Art Show going online ...
"nPower Gorge Girls" ... and more!**

CLASS

Elevating LMS

Expanding statewide efforts are helping local teachers with the new online tools

After rolling out last fall to meet sudden needs for teachers throughout the state, the Learning Management System initiative from the Association of ESDs has not only taken off, but has taken a life of its own.

The newest expansion -- and third phase of the current work -- is the Regional Educator Networks. Starting on Feb. 10, this statewide collaboration offering will let teachers interact online with others throughout the region and across the state on topics and ideas tied to LMS. The networks will also serve as a way to build relationships among teachers and allow them to exchange helpful ideas on classroom environments -- both of the traditional in-person variety as well as remotely-based ones.

Up to 24 clock hours will be available through the new Regional Educator Networks, which will involve a split of six hours of live synchronous sessions, plus 18 hours of self-paced work that teachers can complete into this spring. And, as an added bonus: Up to 15 of the 24 hours -- including all six hours of the live sessions -- can be counted toward the STEM clock hours required for renewal for anyone with a K-8 certificate.

Phase 1 of the AESD's statewide LMS initiative -- known as "LMS 101" -- involved introductory courses to help educators learn to use the on-line platforms of Canvas, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, Schoology, and Seesaw. Asynchronous self-paced lessons are still available for these on the AESD's website. However, teachers will also be able to take new live offerings of the LMS 101 courses that are planned to be offered again in March.

"We had thousands of teachers throughout the state participating when we started the LMS 101 last fall," said ESD 105 Instructional Improvement coordinator Darcie Jamieson. "There were a lot of people who were appreciative that this was being made available."

Phase 2 started in mid-December, and offers deeper dives into the LMS platforms and specific digital tools such as Google Forms, Screencastify, and computer science, with new courses being added. The AESD is offering these asynchronous self-paced instructions through Canvas.

"It's commendable that there's been an effort through the AESD to provide an intentional support in helping provide distance and hybrid learning for kids," added ESD 105 Teaching & Learning coordinator Larry Davison. "It helps teachers do what they do best in providing quality learning experiences for students."

Jamieson and Davison have also augmented the work locally by offering personal follow-up assistance on learning management systems for



Instructional Improvement coordinator Darcie Jamieson (above) and Teaching & Learning coordinator Larry Davison (below) are the ESD 105 regional contacts in the AESD's statewide Learning Management System offerings. Both have been involved in facilitating and creating instructional help for teachers throughout the state.



staff and building teams in the ESD 105 region. Google Classroom has been a heavy interest area within our own regional schools.

Further details and registration for LMS offerings can be found through the AESD website at www.waesd.org/distance-learning-pd. To get local assistance on the various LMS opportunities, e-mail darcie.jamieson@esd105.org or larry.davison@esd105.org.

Selah principal earns 2020 school safety award



Joe Coscarart, the principal of Selah Academy and the Robert Lince Early Learning Campus at the Selah School District, was presented the 2nd annual Sheriff Brian Winter School Safety Award in December from the ESD 105 School Safety Operations and Coordination Center. The award is named after the former Yakima County sheriff who died in January 2020, and recognizes area school employees who exemplify outstanding progress, attitude, and consistency in promoting safety at their school.

Coscarart (at left with the award) is the safety lead for the various programs at Selah's Lince Campus. Through his oversight, the Lince staff was the first in the area to initiate the process toward achieving Crisis Response Team certification, and this past year became among the first schools in the region to complete that certification status. The principal also filmed his own safety basic training video for students, gave homework assignments on that material to students, and trained older students to assist younger ones in drills. Last spring, when the campus was being converted into a child care center for essential workers, Coscarart still arranged for ongoing monthly drills for staff and children while integrating the still-newly adopted COVID-19 guidance areas.

"Joe's true strength is empowerment," said ESD 105 SSOCC manager Chris Weedin. "He involves his teams at every step, from planning to response."

Fellowship awarded

A group involving ESD 105 and local partners is one of four national teams selected late last year as part of the newest cohort of the Flamboyant Family Engagement Fellowship. Based in Washington, D.C., this fellowship program is designed to help communities develop cultures of family engagement. Fellowship teams will design a local school family engagement plan and build expertise by learning from counterparts throughout the country.

The local cohort involves Maggie Mendoza (ESD 105 Early Education coordinator), Claudia Figueroa Dominguez (ESD 105 Head Start family engagement content specialist), Minerva Pardo (Family Engagement coordinator with West Valley), Danielle DeLange Nguyen (director of Early Learning at Yakima School District), and Cecilia Gonzalez (Early Learning and Parent Education manager at La Casa Hogar).

Regional HS Art Show goes on view, and online, in March

The 2021 edition of the ESD 105 Regional High School Art Show will make its 48th annual appearance this spring ... and its first as an online-only event.

While there will be no physical gallery location for the display this time, every art fan will have very easy access with this year's show to view the best creative work among our region's high school youths -- and will have a much longer time to check it out. Watch the ESD 105 homepage at www.esd105.org for details about this spring's online gallery.

Important dates to know about this year's show:

- Teachers in the region's public and private schools may submit their students' entries to Gayle Ames no later than Monday, March 1. For details about this process and to get entry registrations, e-mail gayle.ames@esd105.org.
- Entries will be juried during March 3-4.
- The show will then go live on the ESD 105 website on March 8. Winners of this year's Regional Awards, ESD 105 Board Choice Awards, and Central Washington University scholarships will also be announced on this date, and certificates will be mailed to the teachers of the winning students. The online show will remain up for viewing through the end of May.



CLASS

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Grant inspires possibilities in STEM for "Gorge Girls"

Students in Goldendale and Bickleton are among those benefitting from the new "nPower Gorge Girls" program, which was created through a joint award of \$50,000 received from Washington STEM in December to our region's South Central Washington STEM and to Career Connect SW (the STEM group affiliated with the Vancouver-based ESD 112). The 12-month program is designed to give girls attending middle and high schools in 14 rural school districts along the Columbia Gorge a series of opportunities to learn about computer science, engineering, and other STEM career areas from professionals and role models in those fields.

"Kids can not be what they can not see," said SW STEM coordinator Mark Cheney. "Washington is number one in the nation in STEM occupations, but girls are incredibly under-represented in those fields. This grant is for girls in some of our most rural settings who have the least access to companies like this near them."

To help resolve that, the new program will connect girls with role models in STEM positions through six afternoon STEM and career awareness events that will be held online. It will also fund a week-long in-person summer program in which girls will learn activities with STEM professionals. In the project's first event on Dec. 16, girls from the schools met online with two engineers from Gorge companies who shared a presentation about their careers and conducted a 30-minute STEM activity tied to their work.

Cheney notes that the grant's application had already been set up to involve virtual interactions even before this school year began, due to the project's goal of connecting rural students with STEM professionals from more distant locations.

Angela Abrams joins ESD Board



Former ESD 105 staff member Angela Abrams became the newest addition to the ESD 105 Board of Directors on Oct. 27. Abrams is representing the seven-member board for Director District 2, covering the west portion of the Yakima School District. The position was previously held by Paulette Lopez,

who retired after nearly six years with the board.

Abrams was hired by ESD 105 in May of 2008 as a professional development coordinator for the Ready By Five early learning initiative the agency once operated, and stayed with Ready By Five when it transitioned into an independent non-profit in July of 2011. Since 2012, she's been a professional development coordinator with the Yakima office of what's now known as the Washington State Dept. of Children, Youth and Families, where she oversees professional development throughout the state and conducts policy protocols.

The Toppenish High School graduate went to Yakima Valley Community College for her A.A., then attended Heritage University to receive her B.A. in psychology as well as her master's in education with a specialization in counseling.

— Regional News in Brief —

- **21st Century Grant expansion:** OSPI, through funds provided by the U.S. Dept of Education, has awarded ESD 105 an expansion of the 21st Century Grant to support before- and after-school programs at three more sites in the Yakima School District. The new grant will bring academic enrichment activities in science, math, and reading to selected students at Ridgeview, McKinley, and Adams elementary schools. About 80 students from each school will be involved during each of the grant's five years. Exact funding has not been finalized, but about \$370,000 is expected for the first year to finance the work of teachers, building coordinators, and paraprofessionals at each site. ESD 105 and the Yakima School District have already been facilitating a 21st Century Grant at three other schools since 2019, currently using activity kits that are being mailed each month to children's homes.

- **Computer science grants:** Schools in the ESD 105 region accounted for nine of the 19 grants OSPI announced in September to support computer science instruction as part of a \$1 million allocation by the state legislature. Grants totalling \$268,000 directed to assist computer science education in our region were split among schools in the Easton, Mabton, Mt. Adams, Wahluke, West Valley, and Zillah school districts. Another \$19,000 earmarked for implementing or enhancing advanced placement computer science programs was shared by the Royal and Selah school districts.

- **SNOW award:** Doug Rogers, Sunnyside's director of Student Support Services, won the Non-Nurse Administrator of the Year award in October from the School Nurse Organization of Washington for his advocacy of student health.

ESD 105 CLASS EXTRA: ONLINE

Professional Development Sessions!

While our offices currently remain closed, ESD 105 is continuing to offer our area's school staff members online-based professional development opportunities.

Watch your e-mail inbox for the **ESD 105 Class Extra: Online** listings that are sent every 2-4 weeks to area school employees. Each installment contains details of the events that are on our professional development schedule during upcoming weeks.

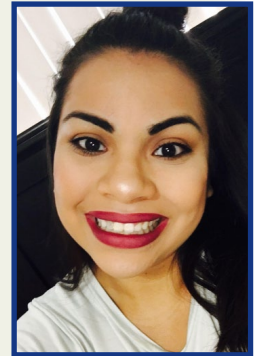
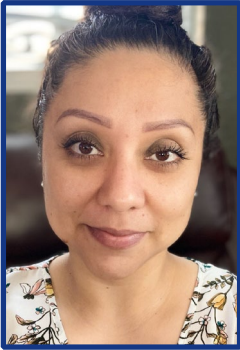
If you are not receiving these listings, please let us add you by contacting:

david.goehner@esd105.org.

Meet some of your ESD's latest arrivals ...

Head Start —

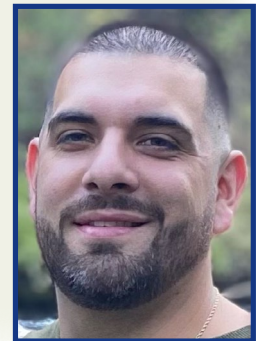
► In October, **Daisy Pena-Martinez** became the first newly hired ESD 105 employee at the Kittitas County Head Start since our agency began operating that Ellensburg site this past summer. The **birth-5 school readiness coach** works directly with the dozen classroom staff members there, conducting trainings, observations, and other efforts to ensure lesson plans are providing meaningful activities to help develop the growth and social skills of the young enrollees there. Daisy is a graduate of Yakima's Davis High School and went to Washington State University for her B.A. in human development and her minor in criminal justice. She was most recently a supervisory program specialist with the child youth services program at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma, and earlier worked with the U.S. Army's child youth services for three years in Hawaii.



◀ **Maria Ayala** began her work in November as a **mental health specialist** for the ESD 105 Head Start programs in Yakima, Ellensburg, East Wenatchee, and Bridgeport. Her role involves conducting classroom observations and evaluations of children, developing strategies and practices to help teachers promote positive student behavior, and assisting parents in pursuing any referrals or other additional assistance. She's a graduate of Sunnyside High School, went to Heritage University for her bachelor's degree in social work, and last August completed her master's in social work through Walla Walla University. Maria did an internship as a behavioral specialist with the Sunnyside School District during 2019-20, and previously worked at Yakima Farmworkers Clinic, Yakima Neighborhood Health, and Catholic Charity Housing Services.

Open Doors 105 —

► **Saul Arambul** entered the Open Doors 105 staff in September as an **instructional assistant**. Saul helps young people in the program through their steps toward earning a GED by guiding them with their homework, signing them up for their required tests, and building the connections needed to pursue their career or post-secondary education goals for when they finish their work in the program. Saul was an educational assistant and cross country/track coach with the Mount Adams School District for the past six years (and still coaches the boys basketball team there), and previously was a reading intervention specialist at Wapato's Camas Elementary. The White Swan High School graduate has B.A. in criminal justice from Heritage University and a master's degree in athletic administration from Central Washington University.



With thanks to our December retirees!

Dianna Hiebert had two separate stints and two very different roles during her years with ESD 105. During her first phase with the ESD, she was part of our Workers' Compensation team, with duties as an insurance accountant, support staff member, and claims adjudicator from 2000 to 2008.

Dianna returned to the agency in 2014 as an administrative assistant with our Teaching and Learning programs, which she served for the past six years. Her work there first involved our Science Co-op, Math Co-op, Nursing Co-op, and education advocates, as well as the Central Washington STEM program and the statewide operations of the Association of ESDs. She later became the administrative assistant to ESD 105 assistant superintendent Ric Pilgrim, continuing with the Math Co-op and helping our Human Resources, FastTrack, and online registrations for professional development.

"ESD 105 is the best place to work. It has truly been 'Better Together.'" — Dianna Hiebert

If you've ever needed local assistance during the past nine years with your clock hours – or if you've come into the offices of ESD 105 to do your fingerprinting – odds are **Linda Hauck** had a hand in helping you.

Linda joined the ESD 105 staff on October 27, 2011, originally overseeing the agency's clock hour services for local educators. In recent years, she added on duties with fingerprinting operations inside our Perez Student Success Center as well as responsibilities as a proctor for those who have needed to take paraprofessional assessments.

"Through my 52-year career, I have seen how much co-workers make a workplace great. What a way to end a career -- working with such a great, wonderful, professional and dedicated group of people." — Linda Hauck

