



Doug Kaelin
Class of 2009

Doug Kaelin entered Las Plumas High School in 1977. During four years there he displayed strong and consistent drive. At graduation time, Doug had clearly worked himself into a position that favored advancement toward roles of leadership.

He carried a solid 3.0 grade point average. As a Thunderbird athlete, Doug was 4.0+ all the way. He participated in track and field, wrestling and football during all four years. As a LP athlete, Doug was Most Valuable Player in those three sports. As a senior, he was selected to the All Eastern Athletic League, again in all three sports. He was the first LP athlete to achieve this impressive status.

Owning a growing number of high school credits, he advanced as a wrestler to the State Finals. He was also a Block LP officer and topped things off by earning honors as an All-State football player.

Doug graduated with a scholarship in 1980 and enrolled at CSUC where he gained a B.A. Degree in Social Science. He continued his athletic activities while again winning honors. Doug was chosen captain in both wrestling and football. He was named All-Conference in each sport and he advanced to the wrestling National Finals.

Although there is no doubt that his presence on campus was missed when he graduated, he would revisit his alma mater after graduating from CSUC. Doug taught for two years at LP and coached football, track, softball and wrestling. He won the NSCIF football coach of the year twice. He also served as the Athletic Director for one year.

Doug continued his higher education while working for 15 years as a Butte County juvenile probation officer. In 1987, he won another award by being chosen as Probation Officer of the Year.

In 2000, at Chapman University, Doug earned teaching and administrative credentials. He also obtained a Master's in Education there in 2005.

Combing this vast and successful past, Doug joined the staff at Pierce High School in Arbuckle and has been the Principal there for the past eight years. Positive change at Pierce quickly followed with Doug at the helm. During his final two years as football coach, the Bears finished with records of 12-1, and 12-0 and won a Section Championship.

Pierce Athletic Director and teacher Gary Teague wrote, "He (Kaelin) brought in discipline and a sense of purpose which had not been seen in this program for many years. Mr. Kaelin gives clear direction and then provides leadership so that the job gets done. Of all his accomplishments, Mr. Kaelin is most proud of the fact that, under his leadership, the Pierce High School API scores have had significant gains."

Pierce High School was named as a Distinguished High School in 2009. Doug keeps rolling too. He served in 2008 as a Star Sectional Administrator and as a Secondary Education Representative for Region Two. Currently, he is the Northern Section President Elect and a member of the Gridley Rotary Club.