



# COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION



## SAN BENITO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

### April 2024 Newsletter



The San Benito County Office of Education is proud to share our April newsletter with you. Each month, we update you on programs, events and news in the county office and the districts we serve in San Benito County. In addition, we invite you to stay connected through our various social media platforms.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and our students across San Benito County as we *Engage, Encourage, Empower...Educate!*

### San Benito County Arts Showcase Scheduled for April 10

SBCOE will host the San Benito County Arts Showcase on April 10th from 4pm to 7pm at the Veterans Memorial Building. This event is a collaboration between the San Benito County Office of Education and the San Benito Arts Council, and promises to be an unforgettable celebration of local art and creativity. The San Benito County Arts Showcase will feature live performances on stage, as well as thousands of works from local student artists. This is a unique opportunity for students to showcase their talent and share their passion for the arts with the community. Visitors will have the chance to explore a wide variety of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, and more. The event will also feature special performances by talented local artists, who will take the stage to showcase their skills and entertain the audience with student performances in music, dance, theater, and martial arts. Contact Tony Balbas at [tbalbas@sbcoe.org](mailto:tbalbas@sbcoe.org) for information and questions.



## Students Shine at STEAM Expo

This year's 2024 STEAM Expo showcased over 200 student projects in Math, Science, Engineering, Art, and Technology, providing an excellent platform for students to showcase their innovative projects. Students from TK to 12th grade completed science experiments and research and then displayed their projects for judges, industry professionals, and the community. Attendees also watched demonstrations and participated in hands-on activities from various organizations, including The Tech Museum's Tech Challenge and Tech Academies, Julia Robinson Math Festival, Pinnacles National Park, Abbot Medical, Nu U Institute, Ecology Action: Resilient Central Coast, San Benito Robotics, Deep Space Robotics, RAFT (Resource Area for Teaching), Recology San Benito County, San Benito Arts Council, and San Benito County Integrated Waste. We are grateful for these amazing partnerships!



At the end of the evening, Science Fair trophies, sponsored by Hollister Rotary, were awarded to the top three winners in the Experimental Projects category. These students are eligible to participate in the CA State Science and Engineering Fair on April 16. Other partners including IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), Nu U Institute, Cal State Monterey Bay, and SBCOE gave additional awards and special recognition, creating an event that encouraged students to bring their best projects to the Expo. A complete list of [SBCOE STEAM Fair Awardees](http://www.sbcoe.org) can be found on our website at [www.sbcoe.org](http://www.sbcoe.org).

## SBCOE Recognizes Community Champion

In March, Go Kids received the Community Champion Award from the San Benito County Office of Education Board of Education. Go Kids has been a strong partner in the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Collaboration with SBCOE and local districts as schools implement have expanded Transitional Kindergarten programs over the past several years. In addition, GoKids worked proactively with SBCOE on our Building Bridges to Literacy Initiative by recruiting daycare and preschool providers to participate in our Early Literacy Certification Program and provided translation during the training. We appreciate all they have done for students in San Benito County.



## County Superintendent Named Distinguished Woman of 14th District



County Superintendent of Schools, Krystal Lomanto, was named a Distinguished Woman of the 14th Senate District by Senator Anna Caballero. This award celebrates Superintendent Lomanto's leadership and commitment to building a healthy and prosperous community. She will be honored, along with several other Distinguished Women of the 14th District on April 5th at the Digital Nest in Salinas.



## SBCOE and HESD Host SEL Engagement Conference

On March 24, SBCOE and HESD partnered to sponsor San Benito County's first SEL and Student Engagement Conference. Organized and presented by Get Your Teach On Team, the conference brought together over 150 teachers, providers, and staff from various schools in San Benito County, San Jose, Monterey, and Bay Area School Districts. The conference aimed to provide attendees with innovative and unconventional strategies to engage students, using toolkits of motivational boosting techniques. This Social Emotional Learning Conference was made possible through a collaboration between the Hollister School District and the San Benito County Office of Education, funded by the CalHope Grant.



## SBCOE Above & Beyond Award

This month, SBCOE recognizes Leah Tobin as our SBCOE Above & Beyond Award Recipient. As an Instructional Aide in our Early Childhood Special Education Preschool Program, Ms. Tobin is patient, kind and always looking for new ways to help students learn. She also works well with parents and staff, always keeping students' best interests in mind.

## Director of Business Services Recognized as Business Services Administrator of the Year



San Benito County Office of Education's Director of Business Services, Mina Canning, was named Business Services Administrator of the Year by the Association of School Administrator (ACSA), Region 10. Each year the organization recognizes outstanding leaders with Administrator of the Year Awards and Special Region Awards. Region 10 consists of administrators from San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties. Director Canning will be recognized at the San Benito County Joint Boards Dinner on April 4 and will receive her award on May 3 at ACSA's Region 10 Spring Fling.

## Busy Month for Alternative Education Students

April is shaping up to be a busy month for SBCOE's Alternative Education Programs. Students in grade 7, 8, 9 and 11 are getting ready to take the CAASPP (CA Assessment of Student Performance & Progress) in English Language Arts and Math. Additionally, English Learners will take the ELPAC (English Language Proficiency Assessments for California) to measure their progress in learning to speak English.

Students enrolled in San Andreas Continuation High School or in the afternoon class at Pinnacles Community School will begin culinary classes offered by Kneaded Culinary Academy the first week of April. Participating students will not only learn how to cook, they will also earn their Food Preparation Certificate.

On April 9, SBCOE will host a Parent Listening Session for Alternative Education students and their parents at 5:15pm. Food, child care and translation will be available for the event.

Finally, our Leadership students will be hosting a Spring Spirit Week in April before they prepare for graduation at the end of May

## SBCOE to Celebrate Community Partners

Education is the foundation for a strong community and it takes a community to ensure students receive a quality education. In celebration of the people who have supported students and educators in San Benito County, County Superintendent of Schools, Krystal Lomanto, will host a Community Partner Thank You Luncheon at Paine's Restaurant on April 24. The event will bring together community leaders, business owners and donors who have donated their time and money to the various programs, services and events that support education in San Benito County. We are blessed to have so many amazing partners who truly care about students and teachers in our community.



## SBC Joint Board Dinner April 4

SBCOE will host the annual San Benito County Joint School Boards Dinner on April 4, 2024. The event brings School Board Members and Administrators from LEAs and districts across the county to network and hear from speakers. This year speakers from Capitol Advisors Group and the California School Boards Association (CSBA) will deliver information about next year's school budget and upcoming legislation in California, which will help Board Members make decisions for the upcoming school year that will best serve students and families in local schools.

## April Tech Tip

A highly useful yet often underutilized feature in Excel is the "Flash Fill" function, which dramatically simplifies the process of formatting and manipulating data. Suppose you have a column of names in a single format (e.g., "JohnDoe") and you want to separate these into two columns with first and last names. Instead of manually doing this or using complex formulas, Flash Fill can recognize the pattern from a single example and automatically complete the task for you.

To use Flash Fill, start by typing the desired output in the next column (for instance, type "John" in the cell next to "JohnDoe"). Then, select the cell and either press Ctrl+E or go to the Data tab and click on Flash Fill. Excel will automatically fill in the rest of the column following the pattern you provided. If it doesn't work as expected, providing a second example can help Excel better understand the pattern. This function works for a wide array of data formatting tasks, such as extracting dates, numbers, or specific text patterns.



## SBCOE Provides LCAP Support

School districts and LEAs across San Benito have begun working on their 2023-2024 Annual Update for their current three-year (2012-2024) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and creating their new three-year (2024-2027) LCAP that begins in July. To support that process, the San Benito County Office of Education has provided district leaders with a series of LCAP Workshops in February, March and April.

Support began in February with technical assistance on how to analyze progress towards goals over the past three years followed by information on how to complete the new LCAP Template along with a General Overview of the LCAP Process. April's workshop will provide technical assistance on the approval process and the alignment of the budget to the LCAP. Additionally, SBCOE will offer LCAP Writing Sessions for all districts in May.

Districts are in the process of gathering input from parents and other educational partners this spring. All districts must have their LCAP's, and budget adopted by their local boards and present their progress on Local Indicators to their local boards by June 30, 2024. Once adopted the districts submit their LCAP and Budget to the San Benito County Office of Education for approval.

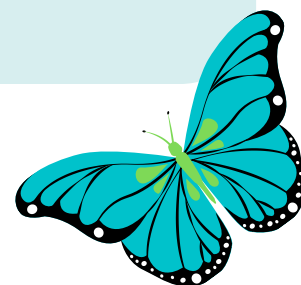
# UPCOMING EVENTS

APR 2024



## SBC Certificated & Classified Employee of the Year Celebration

Please join the San Benito County Office of Education and San Benito County Districts for our Annual Certificated and Classified Employee of the Year Celebration. The event takes place April 17, 2024 at 5:30pm in the Veteran's Memorial Building. Come celebrate the school staff who educate our students every day!



## Professional Learning Opportunities

### Apr 4: LCAP Workshop

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=243967>

3:30-5:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

### Apr 8: SBC Arts Integration Initiative

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=241587>

3:30-5:00pm via Zoom

### Apr 10: Laws, Policies & Practices to Support LGBTQ+ Students

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=244015>

3:00-5:00pm via Zoom

### Apr 10: Strategies for Effective Consultation within the School Setting

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=240358>

2:00-5:00pm

HESD Enterprise Room

### Apr 18: Leading for Equity

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=238472>

2:00-4:00pm via Zoom

### Apr 24: Mental Health Provider Network

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=238472>

3:00-4:30pm

### Apr 25: SEL Community of Practice

<https://sanbenito.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=239930>

3:00-5:30pm

San Andreas Continuation High School

## Meetings

### Apr 4: C&I Network and EL Steering Committee

1:00-3:00pm

SBCOE Boardroom

### Apr 4: SBC Joint Board Meeting

5:30pm

Ridgemark Golf & Country Club

### Apr 17: Rural Principals Meeting

3:30-5:00pm

Southside Elementary and Zoom

### Apr 19 & 26: SARB Meeting & Hearing

9:00-11:00am

SBC Sheriff's Department