

Inspiration

From the desk of Ted Alejandro, County Superintendent

Listening To Student Voices Creates Meaningful Change



More than 300 high school students are having their voices heard this year as part of San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools countywide Student Advisory Panel.

In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, now more than ever, there needs to be time set aside just to listen - especially to our students. Making time to hear their concerns, as well as their outlooks and need for opportunities, is why San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools convened its first Student Advisory Panel in 2015. This year, more than 300 students from 50 high schools in 20 school districts, have enlightened educators and elected officials about issues that are impacting their schools and communities, and also presented solutions to address those issues in the areas of health/wellness, safety, education and economy.

In a county as large as San Bernardino - with more than 406,000 public school students in 33 districts spread out over more than 20,000 square miles - that leaves plenty of room to listen. Students and districts have embraced this concept. The number of Student Advisory Panels has grown two-fold since its start, including adding a Student Advisory Panel so that each region of the county (Desert/Mountain, East Valley and West End) is represented.

Students take their participation on the advisory panels to heart. Brooklyn Gonsalves, a senior at Alta Loma High School

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Newsroom Spotlights

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools to Host Performing Arts Showcase in March



San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools and the California Arts Project will host a countywide Performing Arts Showcase on March 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the historic California Theatre for the Performing Arts in downtown San Bernardino.

[Read more here.](#)

Dr. Cherina Betters Selected As New Chief Of Equity, Access for SBCSS

in the Chaffey Joint Union High School District, said she considers it an honor to have her voice heard. "This has allowed me to be part of something bigger than myself and help my friends and my community members know their input will have long-lasting impact," she said. (Click [here](#) to see more insights from participating students.)

Maybe best of all for our region, student voice is rising and more of our youth are being heard. The concept is growing at the district level with more than 10 county districts now offering their own advisory panels or councils. Several districts even include elementary and middle school students.

We were proud in 2017 when the California School Boards Association recognized our countywide Student Advisory Panel as an exemplary program with a Golden Bell Award. When students are engaged in matters of importance in their schools and communities, and serve a role in developing solutions to address challenges, we make our region a better place to live and grow.

County Schools Connects Students with Industry Professionals

It's an exciting time for growth in County Schools' Innovation and Engagement branch. Beginning this 2019-20 school year, Innovation and Engagement's [Alliance for Education](#) has worked closely with business and community partners to implement innovative approaches to connect students with the world of work. The SBConnect Series kicked off in the fall through a promising digital meeting platform called Nepris. The platform brings working professionals into classrooms via technology, so students gain insights into how their coursework relates to the work world.

With 22 Nepris sessions completed and over 480 video views so far this academic year, the SBConnect Series has provided a vehicle for more than 3,000 county students to engage with regional businesses like Esri, SoCal Gas, ConvergeOne, our County Transit Authority and the County District Attorney's Office.



Click the image to view a short video about the SBConnect Series.

As the Alliance for Education continues this important collective impact work, it looks to expand its reach by creating experiences that connect the world of work to our students, educators and families. To learn more and to get involved, visit



Cherina Betters, Ed.D. has been selected as the new chief of Equity and Access for San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools.

[Read more here.](#)

Redlands Wins Academic Decathlon Title for First Time Since 2011



Redlands High School is back on top in the San Bernardino County Academic Decathlon competition, winning its first title since 2011, after results were announced on Feb. 7 at the banquet for the 37th annual event.

[View the event photos.](#)

Quick Links

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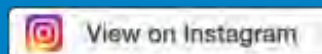
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