

2016 Annual Report

California Civic Learning Partnership Committee
of Butte County

History

Governance

Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye teamed with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson to establish the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning. The Task Force was charged with making recommendations elevating the status of civic learning in schools, so that all students in California gain the knowledge, skills and values they need to protect and participate in our republic. The Task Force was overseen by the Power of Democracy Steering Committee. The Power of Democracy Steering Committee formed in July 2013 and was charged with implementing policies on civic education adopted by the Judicial Council. The Power of Democracy Steering Committee accepted the Task Force's final report, *Revitalizing K-12 Civic Learning In California: A Blueprint for Action*, released in August 2014.

Butte County is one of six pilot counties that was selected to create a local Civic Learning Partnership committee to develop and implement a plan for promoting civic learning in their county. The Butte County Civic Learning Partnership was formed in February 2015 with the goal of developing civic literacy, disposition and participation of all K-12 students by integrating the *Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning* into instructional practice and school life, and also by providing civic learning models and resources that can be used by teachers and schools. The committee's work and achievements during the second year of this two-year pilot program are outlined in this 2016 Annual Report.

The California Civic Learning Partnership (CCLP) of Butte County is a nonpartisan committee consisting of approximately sixty well-respected leaders in Butte County. The committee is led by Judge Kristen A. Lucena of the Butte County Superior Court, Tim Taylor, Butte County Superintendent of Schools and new co-chair Jack Danielson, Regional Vice President - California of the Horace Mann Companies replaced previous co-chair Michael Dailey. Members of the CCLP of Butte County include judges, the District Attorney, a County Supervisor, a City Council person, Representatives from Senator's, Assemblyman's, and Congressman's offices, lawyers, local business owners, former and current high school principals, members of the League of Women Voters, teachers and high school students.

Since the 2015 Annual Report was issued in January 2016, there have been three additional full committee meetings: February 10, 2016, May 13, 2016, and September 7, 2016.

Policy Setting

The CCLP of Butte County previously announced that all fourteen of the county's fourteen school districts and the Butte County Office of Education adopted civic learning resolutions aimed at supporting a comprehensive civic learning curriculum and programs in all K-12 schools in Butte County, making it the first county in the state in which all school districts have adopted civic learning resolutions. This was quite an achievement for the CCLP of Butte County and provided the support necessary to further develop the

programs and reach additional K-12 students. The passage of these fifteen resolutions has continued to directly impact over 31,000¹ K-12 students countywide.

Programs

The members of the CCLP of Butte County spent the first year focused on developing four distinct programs that would incorporate and interact with the six proven practices in civic education. In its second year the CCLP has maintained its original four programs, including the Student Voter Education program which was renamed the Civic Education program to include a broader focus on civic learning. The CCLP also developed a new subcommittee for National History Day. It is the CCLP's belief that each of the six proven practices are represented within the programs. These practices are: classroom instruction in government, history, law and economics; service learning projects tied to the curriculum; simulations of democratic processes; extracurricular activities that have a strong civic dimension; student participation in school governance, and discussions of current events and controversial topics.

I. Mentoring Civic Engagement

The Mentoring Civic Engagement program has continued to grow and thrive throughout 2016. The goal of the program has been to promote civic engagement amongst high school students through mentorship programs that focus on government, business, and leadership. Students acquire knowledge of how community issues and problems are addressed and solved by local government.

The program is driven by actively engaged teachers, administrators, citizens, and civic leaders such as business owners and government administrators, who are willing to provide resources and facilities for simulated/mock city council and county government meetings. Students in a particular school or organization such as the Boys and Girls Club, are offered the opportunity to participate in an organized simulation in their community. Those students that are interested are connected with program mentors. At the first of two meetings, students work with mentors and identify what community issues they are concerned about and would like to address in the simulation. A mock agenda and budget are drafted from those discussions, and used in the second meeting which is the actual simulation of a town council, city council, or Board of Supervisors meeting.

Achievements:

a. **Paradise High School (Paradise)** – With meetings on May 11th and 18th, students were able to engage in a mock town council meeting at the Paradise Town Hall. The agenda for this simulation included issues selected by the students, such as funding a safe and accessible teen center in the town of Paradise for teens after school and on weekends. Students also discussed developing more employment and internship opportunities for youth within the town, and explored how developing a community partnership could help.

b. **Table Mountain School, Butte County Juvenile Hall (Oroville)** – Students met on May 11th and 18th, to plan and participate in a mock Board of Supervisors meeting. Students at the Table Mountain School represent various areas of the county. They raised issues of importance to them affecting their region

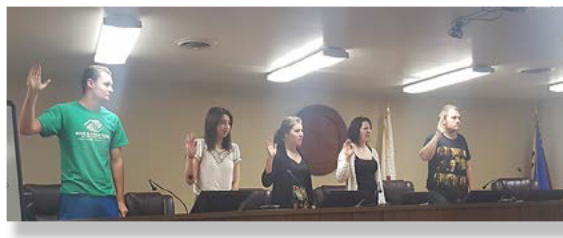
¹ <http://www.ed-data.org/county/Butte>

of the county, which would be addressed in actual Board of Supervisors meetings. The at-risk youth whom reside in Juvenile Hall most likely would not receive the encouragement and opportunity to participate in activities such as this simulation, if they were residing outside that environment. Positive programs such as those organized by the Mentoring Civic Engagement program, promote individual development, improve self-esteem, and encourage community involvement and interest in local government.

c. **Paradise Boys and Girls Club (Paradise)** – Twenty (20) students met on October 12th and 19th and engaged in a mock town council meeting at the Paradise Town Hall. After school programs such as the Boys and Girls Club function as powerful allies in promoting civic learning and engagement amongst youth.

d. **Inspire High School (Chico)** – A total of seventy (70) students from two different classes taught by CCLP of Butte County member Debbie Travers, met on October 31st and November 7th to participate in a mock city council meeting. In this setting, teachers are able to incorporate the simulation with the course curriculum. The Mentoring Civic Engagement subcommittee plans to encourage more teachers to add this to their class syllabi which would result in the learning benefits of the program reaching more students.

Special thanks to the following CCLP of Butte County members and community leaders who have dedicated their time as mentors in the program: Farshad Azad (Azad's Martial Arts), Wayne Barley (Butte County Probation), John Blacklock (Butte County Administration, Retired), Dan Blair (Pacific Gas and Electric), Steven Bordin (Butte County Probation), Dave Britt (Chico Police Department), Rashelle Brobst (Boys and Girls Club - North Valley), Juleab Cordi (Office of Assemblyman James Gallagher), Steve "Woody" Culleton (Town of Paradise), Linda Dahlmeier (City of Oroville), Jack Danielson (Horace Mann), Reanette Fillmer (City of Chico), Kimberly Flener (Butte County Superior Court), Dane Frazier (iCitizen), Hon. Leonard D. Goldkind (Butte County Superior Court), Roger Jolliff (Table Mountain School), Maureen Kirk (Butte County Board of Supervisors), Carl Leverenz (Leverenz Law Office), Saulo G. Lodono (Office of Senator Jim Nielsen), Scott Lotter (Town of Paradise), Hon. Kristen A. Lucena (Butte County Superior Court), Syl Lucena (Collier Hardware), Jeannine MacKay (Butte County Office of Education), Mark Mattox (Town of Paradise), Paul Moore (CSU Chico), Sean Morgan (City of Chico), Kelly Mortensen (Butte County Superior Court), Jarrod Orr (Butte County Superior Court), Laura Page (Office of Congressman Doug LaMalfa), Nino Pinocchio (Butte County Probation), Deborah Presson (City of Chico), John Rhein (Durham Pump), Tim Taylor (Butte County Office of Education), William Tefteller (Osber Lifelong Learning Institute), Nikki Tracy (Boys and Girls Club – Juvenile Hall), Debbie Travers (Inspire School), Brady Velikonja (Paradise High School), and Gina Will (Town of Paradise).



II. Mock Trial

A scholastic mock trial is an academic event imitating the legal process used for teaching students about court trials and the judicial branch. It promotes the comprehension and due process of a trial in the legal system through academic competition by student emulation of legal professionals such as attorneys, judges, court staff, and playing the part of the accused or witnesses.

The Mock Trial Program has continued to provide this learning opportunity for Butte County students with the continued support of its subcommittee and other community partners. The Mock Trial subcommittee would like to enhance the program by encouraging participation in all schools in Butte County to include curriculum related to the judicial branch from kindergarten to high school, and to ultimately answer the question of why rules and fairness are valuable in a child's life.

The subcommittee's work emphasizes two different programs:

High School Mock Trial. Each spring, local high schools compete in a mock trial sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation. The year-long program introduces a criminal case with variances that allow high school students to learn how to prepare opening arguments, argue pretrial motions, and examine witnesses. With the assistance of CCLP of Butte County members and school advisors, each team consists of lawyers, witnesses, and courtroom staff. The Butte County competition takes place at the Butte County Superior Court with a Superior Court judge presiding and deciding the matter. The winning team then moves onto a state competition, and potentially to the National High School Mock Trial event.

Elementary Mock Trial. At the third and fifth grade school levels, participating teachers incorporate a classroom mock trial simulation within the current curriculum. The students are taught the three branches of government, roles in a courtroom, and the flow of a trial. Currently, each May, elementary students from local schools in Butte County participate in Law Day with a mock trial simulation at the Butte County Superior Court.

Achievements:

a. **High School Mock Trial (LPHS/PVHS)** - The Butte County Office of Education, in conjunction with the Butte County Superior Court, hosted the annual high school mock trial competition in March 2016. Each school actively engaged in preparing the students with the assistance of attorney mentors and the school advisor. The program included approximately twenty (20) students from Las Plumas High School and approximately twenty (20) students from Pleasant Valley High School. Pleasant Valley High School moved onto the state competition on March 23, 2016 in Sacramento.

b. **Elementary School Mock Trial Simulation (Parkview Elementary School/PVHS/CHS)** – On May 6, 2016 a mock trial was held at the North Butte County Courthouse in celebration of Law Day. A Superior Court judge presided and approximately twenty-eight (28) students participated. A classroom visit on April 27, 2016, preceded the trial. At the classroom visit the judge and four high school students, who wrote the mock trial script, presented on the three branches of government, checks and balances and the U.S. Supreme Court.

c. **Elementary School Mock Trial Simulation (Notre Dame Catholic School/PVHS)** – On May 6, 2016 a mock trial was held at the North Butte County Courthouse in celebration of Law Day. A Superior Court judge presided and approximately twenty-three (23) students participated. A classroom visit on April 27, 2016, preceded the trial. At the classroom visit the judge and four high school students, who wrote the mock trial script, presented on the three branches of government, checks and balances and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Special thanks to CCLP of Butte County members and community leaders: Charles Copeland (Teacher, Retired), Bob Cranston (Pleasant Valley High School), Deidra Cross (Parkview Elementary School), Mike Dahl (Educator, Retired), Laura Davis (Sutter County Superior Court), Tahj Gomes (Law Office of Washington and Heitbecker), Caroline

Howard (Notre Dame Catholic School), Raina Johnson (Pleasant Valley High School), Hon. Kristen A. Lucena (Butte County Superior Court), Jacqueline Lucena (Pleasant Valley High School), Kim McNelis (Deputy District Attorney), Hon. Tamara L. Mosbarger (Butte County Superior Court), Elizabeth Norton (Deputy District Attorney), Mia Osborne-Ng (Butte County Office of Education), Michael Ramsey (District Attorney), Clark Redfield (Gridley Unified School District), Hope Spanfelner (Chico High School), Matt Taylor (Deputy District Attorney), Tim Taylor (Butte County Office of Education), Mike Tulfaro (Deputy District Attorney), and Dr. Corey Willenburg (Oroville Union High School District).



III. Justice Sayings Classroom Unit

There are seventy-five (75) historic Justice Sayings (quotes) etched in stainless steel plates embedded in the floor throughout the North Butte County Courthouse in Chico. Each saying identifies the source or individual and the date in which it was written or spoken. Quotes range from California Civil Code, to United States presidents, to important political figures, and other popular cultural personalities all with various thoughts on justice and law.

The Justice Sayings Classroom Unit focuses on encouraging teachers to bring students on a tour of the courthouse and use the Justice Sayings as an emphasis for future educational opportunities, such as essays, research, and presentations determined by the age groups and grade levels of the students. The idea behind this unit is to bring to life the ideals of great democratic thinkers (philosophers, writers, and leaders) throughout history as a way to introduce students to the judicial branch of government in Butte County.

The target grades for the program are 3rd, 5th, 8th, and 12th. Ideally teachers will bring their students to the North Butte County Courthouse in the fall semester. During the visit, the students spend twenty to thirty (20-30) minutes to view and read the quotes located in the courthouse and make a paper “rubbing” of the stainless steel tiles throughout the building; students spend fifteen to twenty (15-20) minutes with a Superior Court judge and take a short tour. Once back at school, students will prepare a presentation, essay or research paper, depending on grade level. Additional grade appropriate activities could be added such as finding an additional quote by the same author, finding a related quote, and for older students - a competition may be an option. The Court developed a *Justice Sayings Project: Educator’s Guide* for educators to use with their students that includes: a map of the North Butte County Courthouse (NCCCH) identifying the location of each quote, a brief description of the context of each quote, suggestions for essay topics and further research, and references.

Achievements:

a. **12th Grade Government Class (Inspire High School)** – On May 20, 2016, two classes visited the North Butte County Courthouse for the Justice Sayings Classroom Unit. Forty (40) students and six (6) adults attended. The judge provided introductions and a brief overview of the courthouse and judicial system in the jury assembly room. Students were then escorted into the public hallways of the two-story courthouse to locate quotes that resonated with them. Court staff were present to assist if necessary. The group reconvened in a courtroom for a Questions and Answers session with the judge.

b. **Elementary Class (Parkview Elementary)** – On May 6, 2016 approximately twenty-eight (28) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building.

c. **Elementary Class (Notre Dame Catholic School)** – On May 6, 2016 approximately twenty-three (23) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building.

Special thanks to CCLP of Butte County member Debbie Travers (Inspire School) for piloting the Justice Sayings Classroom Unit, and Annie Sirski (former Judicial Fellow at Butte County Superior Court) for developing the educator's guide for the unit. Special thanks as well to Deidra Cross (Parkview Elementary School), Caroline Howard (Notre Dame Catholic School), Hon. Kristen A. Lucena (Butte County Superior Court), and Frank Quinn (Butte County Office of Education).



IV. Civic Education (Formally Student Voter Education)

The CCLP of Butte County believes that it is important to focus on connecting teachers and students with educational resources and announcements through technology. In order to facilitate this concept, the CCLP of Butte County developed the new Civic Education subcommittee. The goal of the subcommittee is to provide teachers with valuable resources and make them aware of potential activities in which their students can engage. The idea is to send a “blast” of information via email and Twitter every two weeks.

The subcommittee plans to create and manage a contact list of all civic teachers and principals in Butte County. Emails that are sent out will contain lists of helpful resources for teachers and highlight of important dates and events such as Constitution Day and Law Day. The content of the emails sent out to educators, will also be posted on the CCLP of Butte County Twitter account.

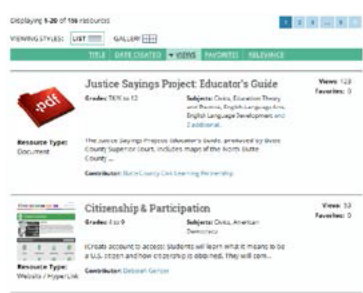
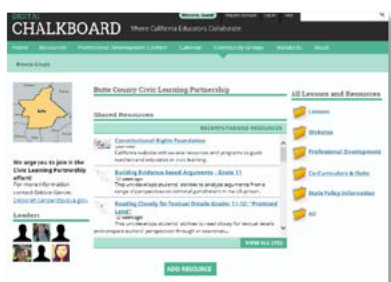
With multiple mediums of communication, the subcommittee will be able to disseminate valuable information more effectively throughout Butte County.

Achievements:

a. **Digital Chalkboard, Butte County** – In 2016, the CCLP of Butte County with the assistance of the Butte County Office of Education and support of the Power of Democracy Steering Committee, successfully created and launched a Digital Chalkboard page for educators. Digital Chalkboard is

sponsored by the California Department of Education, and is an online internet tool that is designed to facilitate collaboration and resource sharing among California educators. Educators have the ability to participate in group discussions, and upload classroom or administrative resources. The new subcommittee will continue to update and maintain the Digital Chalkboard for Butte County educators.

Special thanks to Ravie Aujla (Ventana Group), Gretchen Bender (Butte County Office of Education), Rindy DeVoll (Butte County Office of Education), Dave Garcia (League of Women Voters, Butte County), Hon. Clare Keitbley (Butte County Superior Court), Dr. Frances L. Kidwell (CSU Chico), Hon. Kristen A. Lucena (Butte County Superior Court), Shawn Murphy (League of Women Voters, Butte County), Mia Osborne-Ng (Butte County Office of Education), Frank Quinn (Butte County Office of Education), Melissa Romero (Butte County Probation), John Sheppard (Pleasant Valley High School), Tim Taylor (Butte County Office of Education), Debbie Travers (Inspire School), and John Wiggins (Pleasant Valley High School).

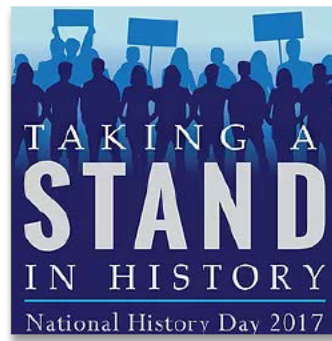


V. History Day (New)

The CCLP of Butte County has taken the initiative to bring the National History Day educational program to Butte County. National History Day is a program built on active project-based learning, which encourages students from elementary to high school age, to explore local, state, national, and world history. Students select a historical topic that relates to an annual theme, and conduct extensive research utilizing resources such as libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews. Students analyze and interpret their findings, which allows them to draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history. From this they create final projects of their work that can be entered into a series of competitions ranging from local to national levels.

Butte County will host its first National History Day competition on March 25, 2017 at Durham High School. This competition will have middle school students participate and compete in a variety of history events. Students who are majoring in history at California State University, Chico will be invited to help organize the event and act as judges. The winner of the event will advance to the state competition being held at William Jessup University in Rocklin on May 6-7, 2017.

Special thanks to Charles Copeland (Teacher, Retired), Jack Danielson (Horace Mann), Rindy DeVoll (Butte County Office of Education), Kelli Gordon (Achieve Charter School), Mia Osborne-Ng (Butte County Office of Education), Casey Taylor (Achieve Charter School), and Tim Taylor (Butte County Office of Education).



VI. Awards

a. February 29, 2016 – CCLP of Butte County member Principal John Sheppard was advised that Pleasant Valley High School was awarded a Civic Learning Award of Merit for the school's commitment to providing students with a high quality civic education.

b. March 29, 2016 – The CCLP of Butte County awarded retired teacher Charles Copeland an Award of Excellence for his 20+ years working with the Pleasant Valley High School Mock Trial Team.

c. May 20, 2016 – Butte County Office of Education hosted the 2015-2016 Red Carpet Recognition Awards where Judge Kristen A. Lucena and Kelly Mortensen of the Butte County Superior Court, were the recipients of the Community Partners Award for the CCLP of Butte County.

Other CCLP Member Accomplishments

In addition to the CCLP developed programs, committee members have actively embraced a variety of other civic activities:

- a. **Twitter Account Created** – The CCLP of Butte County launched its Twitter account as @ButteCLP. As mentioned in section IV in this report, the new Civic Learning subcommittee will utilize Twitter as a tool to connect educators with resources and information.
- b. **Invitation to the Civic Learning Summit 2.0 (San Francisco, CA)** – The chairs of the CCLP of Butte County will be attending the Civic Learning Summit in San Francisco on February 14, 2017. Speakers at this event will include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy, California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and State Board of Education President Michael Kirst.
- c. **Campus Reconnect: Religion and Civic Life Project (CSUC)** – California State University Chico Director of Civic Engagement and CCLP member Ellie Ertle, along with her colleague Kate McCarthy, have developed a new course which combines material from American Government and Introduction to Religion courses. This course is co-instructed, project-based, has a strong civic focus, and is centered on a theme of “finding common ground in an area of polarization.” Students have participated in a semester long “Religion and Civic Life” project, in which they have examined diverse identities and worldviews, and explored the possible opportunities for religious and civic communities to engage in collaborative, productive work on contemporary issues. CCLP of Butte County co-chair Judge Kristen A. Lucena has participated and observed the class for the new course, and on December 6, 2016, CCLP member Kelly Mortensen was able to attend the reconnect session on campus. In the reconnect session, students and community members are able to come together and collaborate on the students’ presentations of their research, analysis, and suggestions for moving forward on the issues.

- d. **High School Leadership Luncheons (PVHS/CHS/PHS)** – Butte County Superior Court judges and numerous CCLP committee members have continued their annual High School Leadership Luncheons program. The luncheons bring together high achieving high school seniors interested in government with Superior Court judges and local leaders in an informal setting. The luncheons provide a platform to commend the achievements of exceptional students, as well as provide guidance to enhance their future endeavors. Students learn firsthand experiences from community leaders and discover what inspired them to choose their specific career paths. The atmosphere prompts enthusiasm and encourages civic engagement and for students to explore roles of opportunity in their community. This year thirty (30) students participated and represented three schools: Pleasant Valley High School, Chico High School, and Paradise High School.

Special thanks to Farshad Azad (Azad's Martial Arts), Mark Beebe (Chico High School), Jessica Candela (CSU Chico), Hon. Michael P. Candela (Butte County Superior Court), John Christie (Paradise High School), Juleah Cordi (Office of Assemblyman James Gallagher), Joseph Earley (Law Offices of Joseph M. Earley III), Reanette Fillmer (City of Chico), Jolene Francis (Enloe Medical Center), Mark Francis (Golden Valley Bank), Hon. Robert A. Glusman (Butte County Superior Court), Kris Hahn (Chico High School), Cliff Jacobson (Spray Chem Chemical Company), Maureen Kirk (Butte County Board of Supervisors), Hon. Kristen A. Lucena (Butte County Superior Court), David McKay (Chico Unified School District), Hon. Sandra L. McLean (Butte County Superior Court), Peggy Moak (Treasurer-Tax Collector), Sean Morgan (City of Chico), Chief Michael O'Brien (Chico Police Department), Michelle Power (Bidwell Park), Renee Spaggiari (Pleasant Valley High School), and Dr. Richard Thorp (California Medical Association).

Future

The full committee will meet again in the Spring of 2017. Members of the CCLP of Butte County will continue to strive to improve the quality and effectiveness of civic learning in schools by focusing on strengthening and growing its programs. It is the committee's desire that the Six Proven Practices in Civic Learning are implemented and that together we will:

1. Provide instruction in government, history, law and democracy;
2. Discuss current local, national, and international issues and events in the classroom, particularly those that young people view as important in their lives;
3. Design and implement programs that provide students with the opportunity to apply what they learn through performing community service that is linked to the formal curriculum and classroom instruction;
4. Offer extracurricular activities that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in their schools or communities;
5. Encourage student participation in school governance; and
6. Encourage students' participation in simulations of democratic processes and procedures.

2016 CCLP of Butte County in Action



Mock Trial Awards

OrovilleMR EDUCATION

News Sports The Cannifornian Entertainment Lifestyle Opinion Jobs

Home Education

High schoolers head to court for mock trial

By Dani Anguiano, dangulano@chicoer.com, @Dani_Anguiano on Twitter

POSTED: 03/01/16, 5:37 PM PST UPDATED: 04/03/16 0 COMMENTS

Oroville >> Forty students from Las Plumas and Pleasant Valley high schools were at Butte County Courthouse on Tuesday morning, but students weren't in any legal trouble, instead they were there to participate in a mock trial.

Students acted as prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses at the courthouse where they took turns arguing their case, cross examining witnesses and making objections before Butte County Superior Court Judge Tamara Mosbarger.

This year's fictionalized case dealt with a young college student accused of murdering a school security guard. Students came dressed in their best professional clothing for the trial, for which they've spent the last five months preparing. They worked with their social studies teachers to learn the ins and outs of the case, and sharpened their public speaking skills to prepare for the trial. Attorneys from the district attorney's office as well as a criminal defense attorney attended the trial as scorers to provide feedback to students. The mock trial is a part of larger efforts by the county and state to increase civic engagement among K-12 students.



Pleasant Valley High School - Leadership Luncheon

PHS students help launch civic learning program



Good morning, Paradise, meet your new town council. Butte County Judge Kristen Lucena swore in four Paradise High School seniors and one PHS sophomore as a youth town council in a civic engagement program Wednesday.

Dylan Dutro, Monica Campbell, Alexis Gregorio, Cassidy Lesch and Tyler Burke along with four of their classmates are part of a six-country pilot program initiated by state Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson.

The Town of Paradise opened its chambers to the group for a study session with representatives from Butte County Superior Court, Congressman Doug LaMalfa, State Senator Jim Nielsen and Assemblyman James Gallagher, as well as Chico State University, the Boys and Girls Club and PHS staff. The five youth council members and four of their fellow student volunteers brainstormed issues that were important to teens.



Butte County Superior Court Judge Kristen Lucena swears in five Paradise High School students to a youth town council as part of a pilot program for developing civic engagement among youth. Trevor Warner - Paradise Post

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead

