



2018 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 fourth year of this program are outlined in this 2018 Annual Report.

The California Civic Learning Partnership (CCLP) of Butte County is a nonpartisan committee consisting of over fifty well-respected leaders in Butte County. The committee is led by Judge Kristen A. Lucena of the Butte County Superior Court, Tim Taylor (Retired), Butte County Superintendent of Schools and Greg Martin, President of Ray Morgan. Members of the CCLP of Butte County include judges, the court executive officer, the District Attorney, Butte County supervisors and city council members, elected state and federal representatives, lawyers, local business owners, former and current high school principals, teachers, and administrators, members of the League of Women Voters, and high school students.

Since the 2017 Annual Report was issued in February 2018, there have been two additional full committee meetings: February 23, 2018 and October 23, 2018.



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 31,760¹ 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 and third years, the CCLP had maintained its original four programs, including the Student Voter Education program which was renamed the Civic Education program to promote a broader focus on civic learning. The CCLP also developed a new subcommittee for National History Day. In the fourth year, the Student Voter Education Program officially retired and a new pilot program was initiated and is known as Judges in the Classroom. It is the CCLP's belief that each of the six proven practices are currently represented within these five programs: Mentoring Civic Engagement, Mock Trial, Justice Sayings, Judges in the Classroom, and National History Day. 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 2018. 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 their 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, time, 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 then connected with program mentors. At the first of two meetings, students work with mentors to identify community issues that the students are most concerned about and would like to address in the simulation. A mock agenda and budget are drafted from those discussions by CCLP members, and used in the second meeting which is the actual simulation of a town council, city council, or Board of Supervisors meeting.

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

Achievements:

a. **Pleasant Valley High School (Chico)** - On April 27th, May 5th, May 23rd, and May 31st Pleasant Valley High School's Government and AP Government class students were able to engage in a mock town council meeting in their respective Government classes with the assistance of CCLP members who spent three periods onsite at the high school mentoring the students. The agenda for this simulation included issues selected by the students, such as potential ideas on how to address homelessness, improve road infrastructure, increase public safety by installing more streetlights, and decreasing underage drinking and driving.

b. **Paradise High School** - On May 23rd, and May 31st, Paradise High School along with other CCLP members held a mock city council meeting in their library for their 12th grade AP Government class. The agenda for this simulation included issues selected by the students, such as potential ideas on how to address road safety, increasing bike path safety and accessibility, and the current status of a sewer project.



Pleasant Valley High School - City Council Meeting

May 4, 2018
Period 2

1. **OPENING**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
 - c. Roll Call
2. **CONSENT CALENDAR - None**
3. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**

For matters that are not on the Council business agenda, speakers are allowed three (3) minutes to address the Council. The City Council is prohibited from taking action on matters that are not listed on the public agenda. The Council may briefly respond for clarification and may refer the matter to the City staff.
4. **PUBLIC HEARINGS - None**
5. **COUNCIL CONSIDERATION**
 - a. Homeless – Littering & Cleanliness and Crime
 - b. Road Conditions – Pot Holes & Traffic Circles
 - c. Better Park Access
6. **COUNCIL INITIATED ITEMS AND REPORTS - None**
7. **STAFF COMMUNICATIONS - None**
8. **CLOSED SESSION - None**
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

II. Mock Trial

A scholastic mock trial is an academic event imitating the legal process and is used for teaching students about court trials and the judicial branch. It promotes the comprehension of 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 the 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 by 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, cross-examine witnesses, and craft effective closing arguments. With the assistance of CCLP of Butte County members and school advisors, each team consists of students acting as lawyers, defendants, 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, selected by a team of scorers consisting of experts in their field of law, 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, due process, and the flow of a trial. Currently, each April or 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 February 2018. 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.



b. **Elementary School Mock Trial (Hooker Oak Elementary/Notre Dame Catholic School)** – On May 4, 2018, two mock trials were held at the North Butte County Courthouse (NCCH) in celebration of Law Day. A Superior Court Judge presided and approximately fifty-six (56) students participated. A classroom visit by a Superior Court Judge and local high school students on April 27, 2018 preceded the trial.



- c. **Mock Trial Script Writing Project** – Over the course of six weeks, five high school students representing three high schools (Pleasant Valley High School, Paradise High School, and Inspire School of Arts and Sciences) met two hours per week at the North Butte County Courthouse to draft the mock trial script for use by the elementary school students. On April 27, 2018, prior to the Elementary School Mock Trial Simulation at the courthouse, Judge Lucena and high school student writers visited the elementary school classes to present on the three branches of government, checks and balances, the U.S. Supreme Court, as well as provide an overview of what the students could expect on their fieldtrip to the courthouse.



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 an emphasis 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 ages 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. 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 (NCCH) 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. **Pleasant Valley High School Class** – On May 11, 2018 approximately twenty-one (21) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building.
- b. **Little Chico Creek** – On May 21, 2018 approximately twenty-five (25) students were able to explore the North Butte County Courthouse and identify the various quotes around the building. This was in addition to the Judges in the Classroom visit a few weeks prior. It enhanced what students learned in the classroom and brought it into the applicable setting.



IV. Judges in the Classroom (New Program)

In 2018, Butte County was one of two counties in California selected to begin piloting a new program called Judges in the Classroom. This additional pilot program is designed to complement current civic outreach efforts and meet the mission set forth by the Chief Justice to enhance civic engagement for all students. This program is a partnership between the Power of Democracy Steering Committee and the Civic Learning Partnerships of Butte and San Diego counties. This program connects judges with teachers who submit an online request to have a judge visit their classroom and speak to their class about: a) the role of the court within the three branches of government, b) constitutional due process, and c) the importance of fair and equal access to the court system to ensure that each side is heard by an impartial, fair, third party. The judge utilizes different teaching methods (including interactive games and role-play) to further educate the students on the judiciary. The teachers have an option of scheduling a trip to the courthouse, where the excursion mirrors the Justice Sayings Visits. The students get a question-and-answer session with a judge in the jury assembly conference room, and then tour the different aspects of the courthouse, including a courtroom. In the spring of 2018, Judges in the Classroom was implemented in Hooker Oak Elementary, Notre Dame Catholic School, Little Chico Creek, and Pleasant Valley High School. In the fall of 2018, all 5th grade classes at Shasta Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Sierra View Elementary, Little Chico Creek, and Chapman Elementary were given the opportunity to participate in Judges in the Classroom.

“The students absolutely loved having Judge Mosbarger come to the class! They had so many questions for her about the judicial system and she did a great job of answering all of them. There are several students that are now planning on becoming lawyers or judges! Thank you so much for facilitating this program. I hope the program continues and we are able to participate in the future. Thank you!” Ms. Julie Crum, Teacher, Sierra View.

The chart below reflects the achievements of the Judges in the Classroom Program. Additional information regarding Judges in the Classroom Pilot Program can be found in the spring 2018 Interim Report. Dr. Francis Kidwell, Professor California State University, Chico, provided recommendations for the pilot. Professor Kidwell came in and observed one of the Judges in the Classroom sessions. She gave insightful feedback on how Judges in the Classroom can improve going forward. One of her recommendations was to clarify and simplify legal terminology used in the sessions such as counsel, witness testimony, evidence, etc. Another recommendation the program hopes to implement in 2019 is a conclusion or a review activity in order to reinforce what the students learned that day.

| School | Teacher | Grade | Students | Judge Assigned | Classroom Visit | Courthouse Visit | JO Training | Student Survey | Teacher Survey |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Little Chico Creek | Seana Velasco | 5 th | 25 | Judge Lucena | 5/7/18 1:30 pm | 5/21/18 | Trainer | | |
| Little Chico Creek | Beatriz Sehom | 5 th | 26 | Judge Merrifield | 5/31/18 8:30 am | Not requested | Completed | | |
| Little Chico Creek | Kristen Thomas | 4 th -5 th | 27 | Judge Candela | 6/5/18 1:20 pm | Not requested | Completed | | |
| Little Chico Creek | Beatriz Sehom | 5 th | 30 | Judge Merrifield | 10/19/18 9:00am | Not requested | - | Completed | Emailed to teacher 10/19/18 |
| Little Chico Creek | Seana Velasco | 5 th | 25 | Judge Keithley | 10/30/18 9:00 am | Not requested | Completed | Completed | Emailed to teacher 10/31/18 |
| Parkview | Tammy Janos | 5 th | 30 | Judge Merrifield | 12/18/18 1:15 pm | Sent form 11/5/18 | - | Completed | Completed |
| Shasta | Jenny Cox | 5 th | 35 | Judge Lucena | 1/11/19 9:00 am | Not requested | - | Completed | Completed |
| Sierra View | Julie Crum | 5 th | 32 | Judge Mosbarger | 1/17/19 1:00 pm | Sent form 11/8/18 | Completed | Completed | Completed |
| Parkview | Phil Swingle | 5 th | 23 | Judge Lucena | 1/18/19 11:00 am | Not requested | - | Completed | Sent link to teacher 1/22/19 |
| Shasta | Kelli Voss | 5 th | 33-35 | Judge Mosbarger | 1/22/19 1:15 pm | Not requested | - | Completed | Completed |
| Sierra View | Mark Romig | 5 th | 32 | Judge Candela | 1/31/19 1:00 pm | Not requested | - | Completed | Completed |
| Parkview | Katie Rose | 5 th | 22 | Judge Lucena | 2/1/19 11:00 am | Not requested | - | Completed | Sent link to teacher 2/1/19 |
| Shasta | Dave Foster | 5 th | 34 | Judge Merrifield | 3/5/19 9:00 am | Not requested | - | | |
| Sierra View | Dean Passanisi | 5 th | 31 | Judge Candela | 3/14/19 12:50 pm | Not requested | - | | |

TOTALS:

SCHOOLS
4

TEACHERS
12

STUDENTS
407

JUDGES
5

COURTHOUSE VISITS
1

STUDENT FEEDBACK FORMS RECEIVED AS OF 2/15/19
9 of 12 classes

TEACHER FEEDBACK FORMS RECEIVED AS OF 2/15/19
5 of 12

Spring 2018 Achievements:

a. **Hooker Oak Elementary School** – On April 27, 2018 one of the Judges participating in this pilot program went to a 5th grade classroom filled with thirty (30) student participants. The Judge introduced them to the three branches of government, the Supreme Court, the principles of checks and balances, due process, and judicial review. These items were then simulated in a mock trial case about the Salem witch trials to demonstrate the importance of these processes. On May 4th the same students then made a trip to the courthouse and built upon what they learned during the classroom session by holding their own mock trial session with the assistance of judges, court staff, justice partners, and attorneys acting as mentors. This activity showcased the difference in due process from the days of the Salem witch trials. Many students wrote thank you cards, and expressed great satisfaction. The feedback received from participants included a suggestion to develop more roles so that every student could join in. The role of a juror is highlighted as critical to this activity since it demonstrates to the students that everyone in a courtroom has an important function and that jurors have a responsibility to deliberate thoughtfully when deciding the guilt or innocence of their peers.

b. **Pleasant Valley High School** – On May 11, 2018 a judicial officer visited the high school and presented to three classes for a total of ninety (90) students in an auditorium. The students were instructed more in depth about the court process and the importance of due process and a fair trial. The judge utilized the Riley v. California lesson plan developed by the Power of Democracy Steering Committee. The lesson involves a search of a cellphone and the evolution of case law surrounding such searches.



V. National History Day

In 2017, co-chair Superintendent Tim Taylor and the Butte County Office of Education took 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 of all grades to explore local, state, national, and world history. Students select a historical topic that relates to an annual theme. Then students extensively research that topic utilizing libraries, archives, museums, and oral history interviews. Students analyze and interpret their findings and then draw conclusions about their topics' significance in history. The students create a final project from their work that can be entered into a series of competitions at local, state, and national levels.

Butte County hosted its first National History Day competition on March 25, 2017 at Durham High School. This competition had middle school students participate and compete in a variety of history events. Students who are majoring in history at California State University, Chico were invited to help organize the event and act as judges. Twelve students advanced to the state competition held at William Jessup University in Rocklin.

The 2018 theme was Conflict and Compromise in History and many unique projects were presented this year. There were individual and group exhibits, historical papers, performances, and websites. Topics included Women's Rights, The Cuban Missile Crisis, Christmas Truce of 1914, Failed Indian Treaties in Butte County, India's Independence, and many more. The competition was held at Nelson Avenue Middle School in Oroville on Saturday March 3, 2018.

Preparations are well underway for Butte County's 2019 National History Day. The 2019 Butte County National History Day will be held March 2, 2019 at Nelson Avenue Middle School in Oroville. The theme is Triumph and Tragedy in History.



Noteworthy

- a. **February 2018** - Butte County Superior Court released the CCLP of Butte County's 2017 Annual Report.
- b. **March 2018** - Achieve Charter School and Little Chico Creek Elementary were each awarded a Civic Learning Award of Merit for their school's commitment to providing students with a high quality civic education.
- c. **March 1, 2018** - Butte County Office of Education hosted the 2018 Butte County Office of Education Art Show at the North Butte County Courthouse. The Art Show included an awards presentation for participating students by the Superintendent of Schools and CCLP co-chair Tim Taylor, and a reception followed in which local students provided live music.
- d. **March 16 and March 18, 2018** - The Butte County Courthouse welcomed forty (40) students over the two days from California State University Chico's Drugs in our Society Class for Drug and DUI Court observations.
- e. **April 25, 2018** - The Third District Court of Appeals (23 counties) held a session at Las Plumas High school in Oroville, California. Two different cases were argued in front of the Justices and 300 high school students. The cases involved a 2014 murder conviction and the other case heard was about state regulations. No decisions were made, or discussed. Before the session was held, local attorneys gave a presentation about the California court system and the appellate process. They also discussed the cases the students would be hearing later that day. This appearance is intended to increase judicial awareness within the appeal district's jurisdiction. The Justices of the Third Appellate District also took time to discuss their career paths, and held a question-and-answer session after arguments in the case had wrapped.



- f. **October 26, 2018** - The CCLP committee unveiled their new website www.CCLPButte.Org. It highlights the different programs, and the research behind the importance of civic engagement and outreach. It also highlights pictures from the many events the CCLP has coordinated and put on throughout 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. **High School Leadership Luncheons** - High School Leadership Luncheons – Annual, high school leadership luncheons have continued with the generous support of a grant from the California Judges Foundation, Butte County Superior Court Judges, and numerous CCLP committee members. 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 mentor exceptional students as well as to recognize their achievements. Students hear firsthand experiences from community leaders and discover what inspired them to choose their specific career paths. A key message to students is this: pursue active leadership roles in the future, whether it be in local politics, philanthropy, or community service. The luncheons prompt enthusiasm and encourage civic engagement for students in their community. This year, approximately sixty (60) students participated from six high schools: Pleasant Valley High School, Chico High School, Paradise High School, Durham High School, Gridley High School, and Oroville High School.

“This is a powerful meeting. The connection between these two parties of professionals and students is palpable. I am thankful for the support and benevolence of the professionals who attend and give back to our youth.”
Mark Beebe, Principal, Chico High School.



- b. **CLIC Visits** - Members of Chico State’s Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) have increased the frequency of their educational visits to the courthouses. CLIC members visited in March, July, October, and November. CLIC is a student-run, non-profit organization that provides legal information to students and community members. Visits include observation of a court calendar (Family, or Small Claims) followed by a question-and-answer session with a judge, and a presentation by the managing attorney of the Court's Self Help and Referral Program (SHARP).

- c. **Little Chico Creek Elementary School, Outstanding Citizenship Ceremony** - In June 2018, Judge Lucena along with Sheriff Kory Honea and Chico Police Chief Mike O'Brien presented awards at the Little Chico Creek Elementary School citizenship awards ceremony. This event was held at the Elks Lodge to honor students who exemplify outstanding characteristics.
- d. **Townhall** - CCLP member Juleah Cordi with Assemblyman Gallagher's office participates every semester in the CSU Chico Townhall which provides students with a public arena for discussing current policy issues within the county with other students, faculty, administrators, and community members.

Future

The future looks bright for the CCLP of Butte County. The CCLP will continue to strive for greater civic education even in the wake of the devastating Campfire, which affected many of our partner schools and students.

And as always, 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.

Acknowledgements

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