

Everyday Hero



Nora O'Brien, Director of Special Education

Last week, the top Colorado Department of Education state officials in Special Education reviewed our compliance audit. Ed Steinberg, Assistant Commissioner of Education, and Charm Palmetto, Special Education Finance and Compliance Director, visited our district with summary information on the 20 federal indicators in special education.

As you may remember, last spring our transition team had to put in extra hours on Indicator 13, which is school-to-work transition for special education students. Delta County was only one of a limited number of districts that was given the opportunity to correct some of our high school transition plans. These corrections and the following state acceptance allowed ARRA funds to become available to our district.

According to the two auditors, Delta County ranks in the top 1% of the 56 administrative units

in the state. Many of the 178 school districts utilize shared service arrangements in special education, thus there are 56 units rather than a larger number. According to Ed Steinberg, "Nora has a job at the state level anytime she wants." He added, "Nora O'Brien's work is exemplary and we applaud the effort of the teachers and staff in 100% compliance for the second year in a row. Delta County is simply outstanding."

Our salute in this week's issue of Everyday Heroes is to **Nora O'Brien**, an extraordinary Director of Special Education for the entire state. It is also a salute to the staff members working in special education with students having numerous special needs. To support these students and remain in total state and federal compliance is an awesome accomplishment.

Nora has been the Director of Special Education for the past five years. Prior to this assignment, she was a district psychologist. She holds advanced degrees and certification as a psychologist, school principal, and Director of Special Education. Nora grew up in Wisconsin and, yes, loves cheese! We are very proud of Nora and glad she migrated to Colorado.

Delta County School District 50J Unofficial Enrollment as of September 28, 2009

Cedaredge Community	- 4
Delta Community	-22
Crawford K-8	+ 2
Hotchkiss Community	+ 3
Paonia Community	-48
Total Traditional Schools	-69
Total Vision Program	-36
Total All Schools	-105



**School Board Candidate Forum
at Hotchkiss High School at 6:30 p.m. on
September 29, 2009**

PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

**One generation opens the road upon which another generation travels.
...Chinese Proverb**

EFFECTIVE TEACHERS: THE KEY!

Research studies have overwhelmingly proven that effective teachers change lives!

I am sure that each of you remember taking statistics in high school or in college and could pass a quick quiz on statistical analysis, effect sizes, and the Mt. Rushmore equivalent (I just threw that one in there for fun!). When a research study has an effect size that is over .25, it is significant. When a study has an effect size that is nearing 2 or 3, that is something to really pay attention to. The following is information regarding various educational initiatives and their relative effect size on student achievement (source: Picus and Associates):

Initiative:	Effect Size on Achievement
Full Day Kindergarten	.77
Class Size Reduction	
Overall	.25
Low income / minority students	.50
Embedded staff development (i.e. teacher coaches and/or effective PLCs)	1.25 to 2.7
Multi-age classrooms:	
Multi-grade classrooms	-.1 to .0
Multi-age classrooms	.0 to .50
Tutoring: 1 on 1	.40 to 2.5
English Language Learner programs	.45
Structured academic summer schools	.45
Embedded technology	.30 to .38
Gifted and Talented:	
Acceleration or grade skipping	.50 to 1
Enrichment programs	.40 to .7

Again, effect sizes greater than .25 are significant and those that are greater than .50 are substantial. The embedded staff development model provides staff support on an ongoing basis. It is repeated weekly and bi-weekly. This can occur through highly functioning teams (Professional Learning Communities) and/or through the expertise of full time building level instructional coaches. Furthermore, you will see that tutoring produces a substantial effect size. The range, I believe, is due to the quality of the tutor--more effective teacher = larger effect size. I can't express enough how important effective teachers are to the success our students have and I am committed to that cause.

Smile & Move Attentive. Engaged. Interested.

It's caring about those with whom we connect and serve, having concern for what they need and want, and listening to not only what's said, but to the true message implied. It's asking questions about how we can help. And when we give our focused attention to the situations and people around us, everyone benefits. Research shows that people who have high-quality connections enjoy mental and physical health benefits including lower stress, lower blood pressure, and better immune system functioning. High-quality connections also help people feel better at work... helping them to be more creative and resourceful, and to learn new skills faster.

Be there for each other and lend a helping hand when needed – Together we can accomplish anything.

Calendar

September 29	Public meets the Board Candidates @ Hotchkiss High School at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by Coordinating Council
October 6	Principals' Meeting @ D.O. at 8:00 a.m.
October 6	Coordinating Council meets the School Board Candidates @ Delta Center at 5:30 p.m.
October 6	District Accountability @ Delta Center at 6:15 p.m.
October 12/16	Fall Break
October 21	Classified Council Meeting @ D.O. at 12:15 p.m.
October 22	School Board Meeting @ DMTC- Paonia Campus 6:00 p.m. Policy Review 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting
October 23	Principal/Board Work Session @ DMTC at 1:00 p.m.
October 24	Principal/Board Work Session @ DMTC at 8:00 a.m.
October 28	Delayed Start Day



Why people named Buddy hate to drive.

Mondays with Mike

At the last Coordinating Council meeting, the membership encouraged me to circulate the administrative tree to staff members. Apparently, some schools had seen this assignment chart while others had not.

From the chart below you will notice that some areas under different directorships are in bold. This denotes a major responsibility. The directors meet weekly, every Tuesday morning at 7:00 a.m., to provide updates and cross-training so that all directors can provide general assistance in various areas. At the council meeting, a question was asked about where the “cut” came with Ed Longfield’s resignation. The administrative cut came about when Caryn Gibson combined the duties of Director of the Technical College and Co-Director of Personnel.

Administration Reorganization Chart

2009-2010

Mike McMillan, Superintendent

Finance School Board General and Personnel Administration Legal Coordinating Council
Vision HCP Maintenance/Facilities Accountability

Bill Carlquist-Director of Personnel

Personnel: Certified Staff Development/Mentoring Accountability
Graduate Credit Certification of Education Hrs Volunteers
Policy Review Highly Qualified (Title IIA) Substitutes

Nora O’Brien—Director of Special Education

Special Education Gifted/Talented (Judy Fairchild) Child Find
Home Bound SWAP Home School Health Services Day Treatment
Medicaid Abuse/Neglect Crisis Coordination RTI-Special Ed

Caryn Gibson—Director of Technical College, Director of Personnel

Technical College Director Certified Personnel Staff Development/Mentoring
Vocational Licensing/Program Approval Carl Perkins Technology Title IID
CVA Report Principals Meetings Coordinating Council Mentoring Substitutes

Delaine Hudson—Coordinator of Alternative Education

Opportunity School Hispanic Task Force Alternative Licensing
Even Start Family Resource Center Title III (ELL, ELPA) Migrant

John Jones—Director of Transportation and Community Relations

Transportation Community Relations Classified Personnel Vision
Administration Activities/Title IX/CHSAA Safe and Drug Free Schools
Accreditation Annual Report Classified Council Post Secondary Options

Connie Vincent—Director Title I Curriculum Assessments

Title I Curriculum Assessments Early Childhood Programs, BELA, Backpack
Homeless Liaison Title Grants/Program Administration
AYP CBLA AMAO PLCs (writing, math, reading) Coaches
Staff Development/Mentoring RTI-General

Terry Kimber—Business Office Manager

Business Manager Budget State Financial Reporting Grants
Fiscal/Data Benefits and Insurance Purchasing/Bids Food Service
Inventory Warehouse Vision Financial

John McHugh—Director of Maintenance/Facilities

Maintenance//Facilities Custodial Construction Bids Building Inspections
State/Federal Environmental Compliance Facility Grants
Energy Conservation



“NO APPLICATION FEE DAY”

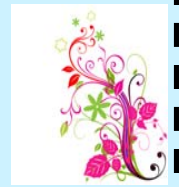
Delta – Montrose Technical College has partnered with the “College For Every Student” national program to host a day when seniors from regional high schools can register at over 30 colleges for FREE! Students and their parents can save hundreds of dollars by taking advantage of this special day which happens to be Halloween morning, Saturday, October 31st.

Halloween treats and door prizes will make the morning fun and valuable to prospective college students. From 8:30 am ‘til Noon, students can apply for free, learn about financial aid, and scholarships available each visiting school.

Tell your friends and associates, and especially any senior you know. For more information, call us at 874-7671.

“Where Careers Begin . . .”

- ◆ Congratulations to **Kirk and Leigh McLaughlin**, teachers at Cedaredge High and Delta High Schools, in the arrival of their son, Gus David.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Carl Hughes**, teacher at Garnet Mesa Elementary School, and his wife on the arrival of their new daughter, Brooklyn Mae.
- ◆ Condolences to **Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rodriguez**. A very near and dear uncle passed away in Indiana.



Standards-based Practices with Ava Lanes

Thanks to those of you who were able to get away from your classrooms to spend some time in district training on Standards-based Educational practices, held this past week at the Delta Center. Two days were spent with the secondary CAT representatives, two days with the elementary, and one day specifically for literacy coaches. It was a successful overview of the district vision of our future at Delta County Schools, as well as a detailed training in the specific parts of our present course. We found out that every school is at a different part of that road, but all schools are on the path. Some are running; some are tentatively stepping; some are confidently striding out, but all are on the path. One of the crucial parts of the training was the 25 Best Practices for schools on the Standards-based path. These are listed below. Those who attended the classes will be delivering opportunities to learn more about these at further trainings in each of the schools.

Modeling
Overall Environment
Varying Student Response
Cueing
Specific Feedback
Bloom's Higher Level of Questioning
Classroom Assessment Strategies
Bringing Back Previous Learning
Standards Based Report Cards
Use of Physical Space
Leading to Learning Through Questioning
Essential Learnings
Pace of Instruction

Monitoring/Individual Assistance
Rubrics
"Teaching to Advanced"
Dignifying Student Response
Evidence of Planning and Preparation
Exemplars
Assessment Matrix
Learning Objectives
Nonverbal Feedback
Checking for Understanding
Negative Practice
Schlehty Engagement Strategies



Paonia Campus of Technical College

Delta-Montrose Technical College is excited about the improvements that have been made to the Paonia Campus. From the money awarded by an Energy Impact Assistance grant (DOLA) and Department of Labor grant (DOLETA), positive changes are occurring at the Campus. The north side of the Paonia building has been remodeled along with the old technology lab, which is now a diesel mechanics shop enabling students to work on heavy equipment. The old library and science rooms have been remodeled with up-to-date classrooms. Through these grants we have been able to stabilize the 50 year-old facility with a new roof along with new heating and electrical systems. This project has the support and use of many entities including the mines, civic organizations, Vision Schools, health and job fairs, and recreation. Currently, the local maintenance team are preparing to apply stucco to the outside of the north side of the Paonia Campus. The Technical College looks forward to Phase II where the south side of the building will be updated by connecting the new systems to the entire classroom corridor.

We are looking forward to hosting the October School Board meeting at this campus.

