



*Today you are you!
That is truer than true!
There is no one alive who is you-er
than you!
~ Dr. Seuss ~*

All of the noise we are constantly confronted with during this time of year from the political arena, in our daily lives, and in society can get in the way of recalling the many positive things for which we should give thanks. We have so many

reasons to have hope for tomorrow and to recall how what we do will have a positive influence on the world. I would like to thank our employees who have continued to participate in the strategic planning process, who have shared organizational suggestions, and who have let us know ways in which we can improve. By coming together, we support the work of our local school districts, deliver specialized student services, provide county-wide leadership, and advocate for education.

The ongoing purpose of our strategic planning is to align the mission and the vision of SLOCOE. Through the process of strategic planning, we have identified several strategies, including:

- ♦ Revising processes and technology to promote organizational success.
- ♦ Addressing our relevancy with local school districts to promote student success.

- ♦ Identifying how, as an organization, we become better connected and collaborate to promote organizational success.
- ♦ Reviewing how we provide a positive, healthy and productive workplace environment.
- ♦ Evaluating our public presence in order to be better understood, both internally and externally in service to the community.
- ♦ Reviewing our management structure to be the best organization possible, to promote student and staff success.
- ♦ Evaluating and revising our departmental alignment related to service priorities.

The SLOCOE team is committed to engaging faculty and staff in meaningful conversations that are open and honest. To that end, we will be supportive of each other and come together as one team. We will make students, faculty and staff our top priority. We will keep you informed as we progress with the completion of the strategic planning process.

*You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
You're on your own, and you know what you know.
And you are the guy who'll decide where to go.
~ Dr. Seuss ~*

I invite you all to help SLOCOE continue to move forward as a premier educational organization. What we have identified in the strategic planning process will help us do so.

It is an honor to serve as your superintendent.

Jim Brescia



Team SLOCOE would love your support, and it's fun.



1. Donate dollars (\$1 buys \$10 in nutritious food).
2. Walk or run! (\$30 to register; 100% goes to the Food Bank to feed families and children.)
3. Select "Team SLOCOE."

www.slofoodbank.org/events/hungerwalk5K

SLO Food Bank Hunger Walk

Saturday, October 15, 8-11 am @ Coleman Park, Morro Bay



See KCOY's story on how the Food Bank helps our [preschoolers](#) shop for fresh fruits and vegetables at the Farmers Market.



Meet Lisa Irwin, *Administrative Assistant I, Maintenance Operations and Transportation*

A mother of five children, ages 8 to 26, Lisa comes to SLOCOE with finely honed organizational skills and an energy level that will help to explain her seemingly lightening-speed responses to most every request she receives. Lisa is not unfamiliar with emergency responses, having worked for British Airways at LAX during the 9/11 attacks, LA riot lockdowns, volcanic ash grounding of airplanes, and industrial strikes.

Despite those experiences, Lisa laughingly says there is truth to the phrase, “friendly skies.” It was while



on a plane after all, chatting with a gentleman on the aisle seat during a four-hour flight delay, that Lisa met her husband.

Husband Bruce, a 34-year retired Army colonel, now volunteers as a mentor for veterans who struggle with injuries and alcoholism, with Lisa’s full support. Two former servicemen have become a part of their family.

Welcome to SLOCOE, Lisa!

Meet Levi Henry, *School Psychologist, Student Programs and Services*

How does one celebrate a milestone birthday? If one is Levi Henry, one undertakes a 270-mile bicycle tour all the way up the coast of northern California into what is known as the “Redwood Empire,” between San Francisco Bay and the Oregon border. Cycling with his significant other, Karen, Levi says, made his special birthday very memorable. Levi also enjoys kayaking, fishing, and hiking.

A school psychologist since 2000, Levi came to us from San Luis Obispo High School. The start of a school year is always hectic, he says. A school psychologist typically is busy helping staff identify students with needs; consulting with staff, parents and students; and ensuring compliance with the many laws that govern services to students. This is Levi’s second time around with SLOCOE, having worked with us once before in 2004-2005.



Levi has a diploma as a color consultant from the International Association of Color Consultants—NA. He knows how to create spaces that promote relaxed bodies and alert minds. Don’t we all need that?

Welcome back to SLOCOE, Levi!

~ TRANSITIONS ~

Welcome to the SLOCOE Family

Cheryl Fritch, Licensed Vocational Nurse, SPS

Lisa Irwin, Administrative Assistant I, MOT

Lauren Herrera, Classified Coordinator—Early Learning & Educational Support, ESS

Stephanie Northcote, Classified Coordinator—Early Literacy, ESS

Thank You for Your Service

Katherine Lockart, Behavioral Health Specialist, SPS

Diane McCarthy, Cook, REC Outdoor School, ESS

Erin Miller, Administrative Assistant I, MOT

ESS—Educational Support Services;

HR—Human Resources;

MOT—Maintenance, Operations, & Transportation;

Artists Reception

October 18, 2016, 5-7 pm

SLOCOE Board Room

Want to meet the artists whose works have been gracing our walls? Here is your chance!

Classified Employees of the Year

will be walking the red carpet

October 24, 2016

5:00-8:00 pm

Culinary Arts Academy

1900 Golden Hill Road, Paso Robles

SAVE the DATE!

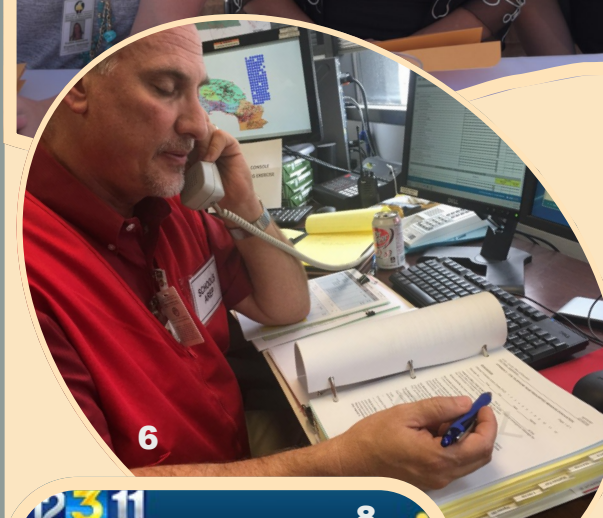
The newsletter needs stories and photos from classroom and program staff! news-letter@slococoe.org

Calendar of Events





~ September Scrapbook ~



COE Teacher of the Year, Julie McAdon. **Photo 3:** Karen Donaghe, Katherine Aaron, and Karla Knuckles, VIPs of the registration table. **Photo 4:** Each district's Teacher of the Year had a star along the red carpet walk. **Photo 5:** Look for this "Best Community Scarecrow," created by SLOCOE's Heidi Hopkins and Coast USD's Marcia Betruie, near Black Cat Café in Cambria during the month of October. **Photo 6:** Ashley Lightfoot directed evacuations for public schools at the Emergency Operations Center during the September 21 Diablo Dress Rehearsal Drill. **Photo 7:** The September 17 "Cow Parade" included creations by students from Grizzly Challenge Charter School, and other artists. The cows are "pastured" around the county, and will be auctioned to benefit local charities. **Photo 8:** KCOY televised a story about our Paso Robles preschoolers shopping for healthy fresh fruit and vegetables with "food bank bucks" at the Farmers Market. The program is sponsored by the SLO Food Bank Coalition. [See KCOY's story.](#)