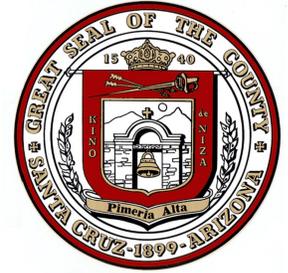




Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez Newsletter



“Education must not simply teach work, it must teach life.” -W.E.B. Du Bois

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[Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent’s Office Website](#)

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and a safe holiday season. During this season our office likes to reflect on the support we have received and partnerships and relationships we have throughout the county. The office is indebted to all those that have helped sponsor various events through our office, and continue to support our county’s educational community. We would also like to recognize and give thanks to school administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, and students that make our educational system and community thrive.



Santa Cruz County School
Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez
at the 2017 Teacher of the Year Event.

Upcoming Events

- County Spelling Bee | February 2
- Read Across America | February 26–March 2
- Early Childhood Month | Month of February

Wonder Movie

On November 30th, all 4th grade students attending NUSD schools attended a special viewing of “Wonder” at the Oasis Theater in Nogales, AZ. The movie deals with issues of bullying, acceptance and kindness. The idea of using the movie and book as a teaching tool was first suggested by Ms. Ana Karen López, elementary school counselor at Bracker and Coronado Elementary Schools. All 4th grade teachers in the district read the book to their students in the weeks prior to the release of the movie. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez sponsored the event through the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office and the Healthy Student Grant, providing the books, transportation, admission fees and snacks. He was in attendance, welcoming and addressing the students, and requesting that they pay particular attention to the message the movie has to offer. Students will be participating in various follow-up activities using the themes of the movie.



Pictured Left: Bracker and Coronado Elementary School Counselor, Ms. Ana Karen López poses with students inside a viewing of Wonder.



Pictured Left: NUSD #1 Student Services Director Judith Mendoza, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, and NUSD #1 School Superintendent Fernando Parra.

Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA)

The Arizona School Board Association hosted an annual meeting during late October at Little Red Schoolhouse. In attendance were Santa Cruz County School Governing Board members, they met to discuss state level ASBA news, bylaw proposals, public policy and litigation matters. Also, future Santa Cruz County Board trainings were discussed as well as Best Practices in Superintendent and Board Evaluations. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez recognized many governing board members for their service. Those who were recognized for their years of service were: Mr. Robert H. Noon for over 30 years of service, Ms. Cynthia Morris-Mattus for over 25 years of service, Mr. Manny Ruiz and Mr. Frederick Sang II for over 20 years of service, and Mr. Ronald Fish, Mercie Fernandez, and Mike Sweedo for over 15 years of service.

Fresh Produce Association Salad Bar

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent would like to thank the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas for donating a salad bar to Patagonia Union High School #20 and Patagonia Elementary School #6. The Fresh Produce Association of the Americas held the 49th Annual Nogales Produce Convention and Golf Tournament to showcase the produce community and some of the various factors that bring the community together. Along with those topics, the Fresh Produce Association of the Americas also had a presentation on the Salad Bar Program which had to do with many of the schools throughout Santa Cruz County.



Pictured Above: Santa Cruz County Chief Deputy Chris Young, his wife Bianca Parra, Patagonia School Superintendent Rachel Hochheim, her son Cameron, and Patagonia student Sophia Bergh and father Jere Bergh.

CREO

CREO Project Director, Maya Donnelly, attended two major events this winter season representing the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office and the participating schools in the program. The Arizona Department of Education held the MEGA Conference in mid-November to provide workshops and keynote presentations sharing important strategies and resources on implementing Title I programs and services, as well as provide networking opportunities for school leaders and opportunities to highlight and celebrate effective practices and the children served. The MEGA Conference was held in Phoenix, Arizona and featured the CREO program and MetroMatematicas/Six Sigma elective from Santa Cruz County as one of their workshops for those in attendance. CREO Program



Pictured Above: CREO Program Grant Director Maya Donnelly, Chaitanya Mekala, Mike Hughes, Rosa Maria Cardenas, Tom Maddock, and Jigar Mehta

Director, Maya Donnelly, accompanied MetroMatematicas teachers Tom Maddock and Jigar Mehta to present an overview of the curriculum, materials, and resources. The three of them were able to showcase CREO and the fact that the Six Sigma Practicum sets Santa Cruz County apart. Along with the MEGA Conference, in late-November, a Friends of CREO meeting was held at the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College. All those involved with the CREO program met and discussed the forward progress of the program and the MetroMatematicas/Six Sigma elective.

Congratulations Zulema Fragoso!



Pictured Above: Nogales High School Freshman Cohort Academic Advisor Zulema Fragoso

Zulema Fragoso, Nogales High School Freshman Cohort Academic Advisor, received the 2017 College Success Arizona Star award at College Success Arizona's annual Leaders and Legends Celebration Luncheon. Ms. Fragoso was recognized for going above and beyond to help students, especially low-income, first-generation students, gain access to higher education. Ms. Fragoso pushes students to take Career and Technical Education classes, as well as apply for summer programs and volunteer in the community. A recent news release reported that 61% of the students Ms. Fragoso worked with in the Class of 2017 enrolled at either a college or university, which is a significantly higher percentage than at other schools across the state. Ms. Fragoso is a great asset to Nogales Unified School District #1 and the Santa Cruz County educational programs.

Third Annual Adolescent Youth Conference

The Third Annual Adolescent Youth Conference was held at Patagonia Methodist Church and was free to all middle and high school youth. The conference was presented by SAAF, AADYCT, PUHS students, PYEC Peer Power Team and Youth, and Circles of Peace. The conference also included a guest speaker, Tarrel Harper of Elgin School. Topics that were discussed included healthy relationships, drug and alcohol awareness prevention, and active life choices.



Pictured Left: Students in attendance at the 3rd Annual Adolescent Youth Conference

Red Ribbon Week



Pictured Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Staff at the 2017 Red Ribbon Luncheon at the Santa Cruz County Boys and Girls Club

Red Ribbon Week was held October 23-31 to honor DEA Special Agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena, who was tortured and killed fighting the war on drugs. During this eventful week students throughout the nation pledge to lead a drug-free life. This year’s theme for Red Ribbon Week was “Your future is key, so stay drug free.” The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office partnered with the Santa Cruz County Attorney’s Office to provide Red Ribbon bracelets for every student in Santa Cruz County School Districts. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Staff also attended a luncheon held at the Boys of Girls Club of Santa Cruz County to show our support at

the event held by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff, Tony Estrada. Speakers at the luncheon included Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Polo Ruiz, DEA and Cenpatico Integrated Care Executive Director, Michele Barnard. Also in attendance was the Lincoln Elementary School Choir who sang the National Anthem, and Lincoln Elementary School Student Council President, Antonio Garcia, who led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Arizona Association of County School Superintendent’s Meeting

Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez hosted an Arizona Association of County School Superintendent’s meeting at the Quality Hotel Americana on November 2nd. Nine of fifteen County School Superintendents from around Arizona were in attendance to discuss various topics. Such topics included the funding of juvenile detention, Arizona public education, professional development resources for economic education, and legislative issues. Maya Donnelly and Teresa Sprigg were also able to address the Arizona Association of County School Superintendents about their respective grants, the Youth Career Connect/CREO Grant and the Healthy Student Grant. Also, students from Nogales High School provided a demonstration of projects, tools, and robotics used in the CREO Math Program. The meeting was Día de los Muertos themed, decorated with papel picado, an altar honoring Alfred Hitchcock, and included a performance by the Nogales High School Mariachi band.



Pictured Above: (Left) Santa Cruz County School Superintendent’s Office Healthy Students/Healthy Families Grant Director Teresa Sprigg presenting and promoting her grant to the Arizona County School Superintendents. (Right) Santa Cruz County Superintendent’s Office CREO Grant Director Maya Donnelly, and four MetroMatematicas students from Nogales High School presenting the course elective to the Arizona County School Superintendents.

Borderland Film Festival

The Borderland Film Festival, formerly known as the Santa Cruz County International Film Festival, is an annual event held every October in Ambos Nogales and throughout Santa Cruz County. As part of the Film Festival, the organization held a Film Makers Workshop for which the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office provided transportation. Roughly 120 students from both Nogales and Rio Rico High Schools were transported to Oasis Cinema to attend the workshop. Students learned to implement various film techniques such as lighting and sound, as well as learn the business side of film making such as paying for royalties and budgeting.



Pictured above: Students from Nogales and Rio Rico High School stand outside Oasis Cinema in Nogales, AZ before attending a Film Makers Workshop.

University of Arizona Professional Development Workshop: Analyzing Historic Documents Through an Economic Lens



Pictured Above: Dr. Stella Perez and Lourdes J. Martinez at the UofA Professional Development Workshop.

The University of Arizona hosted a professional development workshop for middle and high school teachers at the Santa Cruz County Provisional Community College in Nogales, AZ. Besides being for middle and high school teachers, the focus was to get teachers of history, government, civics, social studies and economics to the workshop. The teachers were then able to learn various techniques to analyze primary source documents from an economic perspective, model lesson plans to implement in the classroom, gain access to materials, and receive a certificate for three hours of professional development.

McDonald's Grand Re-Opening

On Friday, October 20, 2017 the McDonald's Restaurant on Mariposa Road in Nogales, AZ held a grand re-opening due to the restaurant remodeling. This McDonald's has always been a frequent sponsor to the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office events. Many community leaders attended the grand re-opening to support this event and to give thanks for everything this restaurant has done to help give back to the community.



Pictured Left: Nogales Mayor John Doyle, County Supervisor Manny Ruiz, County Supervisor Bruce Bracker, McDonald's Franchise Owner Leanne Richards, T.E.F.A.P. Coordinator Arthur Espinoza, Nogales City Councilman Nubar Hanassian, Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Chief Deputy Chris Young, and other community leaders.

Congratulations to Grade A Schools

During the month of October, nearly all Arizona schools received a letter grade (A-F) by the Arizona Department of Education. The letter grades were given based on various factors such as standardized test scores on the AZMERIT, graduation rates, and how well schools are preparing students for post secondary careers. Alfredo I. Velásquez is congratulating all schools throughout Santa Cruz County for receiving a letter grade of “A” by delivering them a congratulatory cake. Congratulations again to these schools and thank you for representing Santa Cruz County in such a positive way.

The schools that received an A rating included:



Pictured Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and Coronado Elementary School Principal Sandra L. Jimenez

- Elgin Elementary School
- Francisco Vasquez de Coronado Elementary School
- Lincoln Elementary School
- Little Red Schoolhouse
- Mexicayotl Charter School
- Robert M. Bracker Elementary School



Pictured Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez standing with Lincoln Elementary School Principal Dr. Lucina Romero and Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Chief Deputy Chris Young

Veteran's Day Events

Many schools throughout Santa Cruz County held Veteran's Day Events to help celebrate, remember, and give thanks to those who have volunteered their service to our country. Lincoln Elementary School held a breakfast and an assembly honoring all those who have served, as well as promoted the “Greenlight A Vet” campaign by Walmart. Sonoita Elementary School District #25 and American Legion Post 113 held a Veteran's Day Event at Elgin School honoring all veterans. At Elgin Middle School their Honor Guard posted and retired the colors, the all school choir sang patriotic songs, the American Legion Post 113 announced essay winners, and the guest speaker Chaplain (Colonel) Thomas Day, USA Ret., addressed the audience. Many students from the Elgin School, local veterans, and parents from the community were in attendance. Students and staff helped serve brunch. Patagonia Public Schools held a Veteran's Day event at Patagonia Union High School Gymnasium honoring all those who served. The event introduced many local veterans, talked about what Veteran's Day is, and included guest speaker Gilbert Alvarez, USAF Ret. who addressed the audience. Both Middle and High School students from Patagonia were actively involved in the celebration and helped serve lunch to the guests.



Left: Lincoln Elementary School students give thanks to veterans in attendance. Middle: Guest speaker Chaplain (Colonel) Thomas Day USA Ret. addresses the audience at the Elgin School. Right: Group of veterans being honored at Patagonia High School.

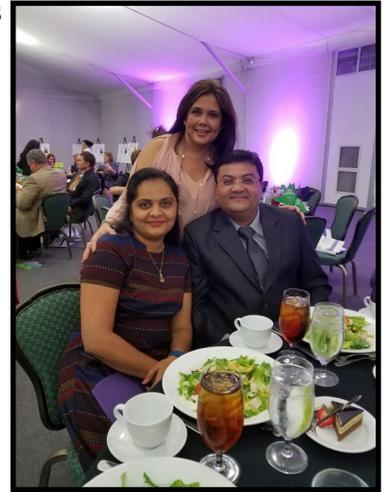
State Teacher of the Year Luncheon



Above: Mr. Jigar Mehta being recognized at the 2017 State Teacher of the Year Luncheon

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office had the honor of accompanying our 2017 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year Mr. Jigar Mehta to the Arizona State Teacher of the Year Awards Luncheon. The event was held November 7, 2017 at the Arizona Grand Resort in Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Mehta, a math and MetroMatematicas at Nogales High School was announced the 2017 Santa Cruz County Teacher of the Year earlier this year in August. Mr. Mehta was honored at the event along with 15 other teachers, each of them representing their county within the State of Arizona. They were all recognized for the honorable dedication that they have for the students within

their communities and the difference they made in these children's lives. In attendance were over 500 guests from throughout the state, all of whom represent various government agencies and private sector organizations. Our office is proud to have had the pleasure of accompanying Mr. Mehta and his wife to this prestigious event.



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Accounting Specialist Patricia Barraza-Preciado accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Mehta to the 2017 State Teacher of the Year Luncheon.

REMS Update

During the month of November the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office sent out a request to all schools and sites involved in the REMS Program to update their information on the V-Response website. It had been six months since our last update to the website, therefore, minor adjustments were made and some sites requested more guidance in the update process. Along with updating information posted on the website, Dakota Beach, REMS Project Coordinator, attended an LEPC Meeting and addressed the law enforcement and first responder community who have access to the program to create an open line of communication to help improve the website, and make the information more accessible to those who would need it during an emergency situation. With civil terror attacks on the rise, the REMS program is a powerful tool to have in our community and we continue to encourage sites involved in the program to maintain current information.

College and Career Fairs



Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Accounting Specialist Dakota Beach at the NHS College and Career Fair.

The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office attended four College and Career Fairs during the months of November and December. The events were held at Rio Rico High School, Pierson Vocational High School, and two at Nogales High School. At the event, the office promoted educational careers, discussed the duties and responsibilities of our office, and promoted the various grants which our office oversees.

Meet and Greet



Pictured Above: Members of twenty-five community outreach programs and school staff members from all districts in the county at the second Meet and Greet event.

Three agencies collaborated for the second time this year to host a Meet and Greet Event on November 1, 2017. Adolescent Wellness Network, the Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) and the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office joined forces to plan the event. Attendees included school staff and personnel from all districts in the county, along with twenty five community outreach agencies.

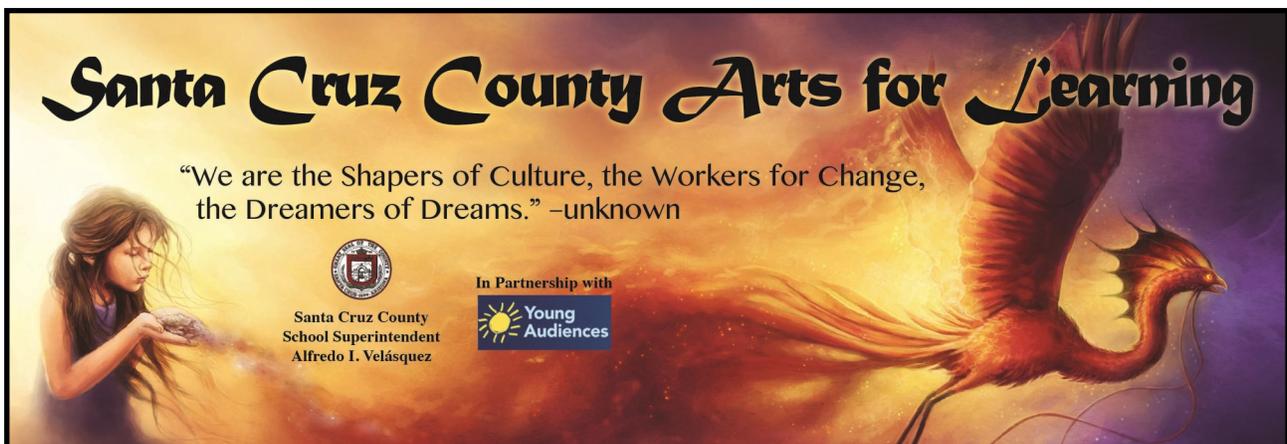
The event included an introduction and video sponsored by the CCRT's co-chairman, Tom Mcalpin, outlining statistics and prevalence of domestic violence in the county. Martin

Felix, from Wellness Connections, was the guest speaker who spoke to the group about his struggles with addiction, his recovery process, and his mission to give back to our community. San Cayetano's Principal, Mrs. Mimi Renteria and her parent liaison, Roxanna Leyva, also addressed the group describing the support and help that they have been able to provide parents at their school using outside resources.

The latter portion of the event gave schools and agencies the opportunity to meet with each other and make those crucial connections that can benefit parents and students. Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez, closed up the meeting by thanking all of the participants for their dedication and service to the community.

Nutcracker Presentation

The second annual V.I.P. student viewing of the Nutcracker Presentation was held on Friday, December 15, 2017 at Nogales High School James K. Clark Auditorium. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent provided free transportation to and from the showing for all third grade students in Santa Cruz County. Sixteen buses were provided to transport nearly seven-hundred students to the presentation. The Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office and its Arts for Learning Department would like to thank Nogales Unified School District #1 Superintendent Fernando Parra, and Nogales High School Principal Cesar Miranda for providing the use of the auditorium, Ms. Patricia Barraza-Preciado for coordinating the event and transportation, and Mr. Daniel Burgueno of the Borderline Dance Project for providing students this free presentation.



Pictured above: Santa Cruz Arts for Learning banner showing the partnership between the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent Alfredo I. Velásquez and the Young Audiences Arts for Learning Organization.

Staff Member Spotlight: Chief Deputy Chris Young



Pictured Above: Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Chief Deputy Chris Young, his wife Bianca Parra, and twin daughters Emma Jo and Maya Jo at the Santa Cruz County Complex Halloween Event.

Meet the Santa Cruz County School Superintendent's Office Chief Deputy, Chris Young! Mr. Chris Young has been with the office for just over a year now and has made a significant impact in our educational community. Mr. Young, a Colorado native, has spent the last 14 years in education. While earning his secondary teaching degree from the University of Northern Colorado, he was also part of the university's baseball team, where he played shortstop. After his time at Northern Colorado University, Mr. Young spent some time abroad, spending a year in Europe before landing himself in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. While in Hermosillo, Mr. Young worked as a full time teacher for three years, Director of the International Business Program for two years, and then the Campus Academic Director at Universidad del Valle de México (UVM). He earned his first Masters degree in Education from UVM, and a second Masters in Business Administration from Walden University. After working for two years as Campus Academic Director, Mr. Young became a high school principal at Preparatoria Universidad del Valle de México for three years. Mr. Young moved to Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico to work as the Northern Region Faculty Manager for UVM for a year. As his last tour in Mexico, Mr. Young became the Dean of Campus at the Nogales, Sonora, Mexico UVM for

a year. He then found himself in the community of Santa Cruz County where he has grown fond of his duties as Chief Deputy. Mr. Young believes this is due to the amazing staff and his supportive wife Bianca and twin daughters Emma Jo and Maya Jo.

Meet the Staff



Alfredo I. Velásquez
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent



Christopher Young
Chief Deputy
Santa Cruz County School
Superintendent's Office



Maya Donnelly
CREO Program Director
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office



Teresa A. Sprigg
Governor's Healthy
Families/Healthy Youth
and Healthy Students
Program Director
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's
Office



Danna Gallardo
Education Director
Santa Cruz County
Juvenile Detention
Education Program



Marisol Chiquete-Bolaina
Bookkeeper
Santa Cruz County
School Superintendent's Office



Patricia Barraza-Preciado
Accounting Specialist
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Sergio Delgado
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