

# AveNEWS

ADULT & CAREER-TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEWS



## Protect our Students; Protect Prop 98

A Message from Superintendent  
Paul Hay

### Proposition 98 Under Attack

Proposition 98 was passed by California voters in 1988 to guarantee a minimum level of funding for California schools.

In January, Governor Schwarzenegger proposed a budget for 2008-09 that would suspend the Proposition 98 guarantee and cut support for education in California by \$4.8 billion over the next 18 months.

The Governor's proposed cuts to education would be disastrous to public schools. A \$4.8 billion cut would mean laying-off tens of thousands of teachers, increases in class size and a further erosion of the support classified and paraprofessional staff provide to our students. This would threaten the progress that our students are beginning to make. In the last four years, California reading scores are up 25% and math scores have increased 17%.

The recent "Getting Down to Facts" studies show that education needs more, not less, funding. According to Education Week, in the last two years, California has dropped from 43rd to 46th in the nation in per-pupil funding. That's \$1,900 less than the national average funding per-pupil. That same report gave California a D+ in education funding. States like New York spend 75% more on education than California.

California has a budget problem. But Proposition 98 did NOT cause that problem. During a five year period, from 2003-04 to 2008-09, California's General Fund Revenues grew 40.2%. Alternatively, funding for schools only grew 30.4%. After the proposed suspension of Prop 98, funding for schools will have only grown 21.7%.

Based on the Governor's proposed cuts, funding for MetroED's General Fund vocational programs (CCOC/P) will be reduced nearly 7.0%, over \$1 million, from current year funding levels! Funding for MetroED's Adult Education programs (MAEP) will be reduced 6.5%, over \$620,000, from current year funding levels! While MetroED will rely on reserves

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## CCOC Fire Science/EMT Dedication Ceremony Speakers Include SPI Jack O'Connell, Congressman Mike Honda

Central County Occupational Center (CCOC) held a Fire Science/EMT Program Dedication Ceremony on February 13 with a jam packed agenda. Nearly 200 visitors came to the event featuring Congressman **Mike Honda** and key note speaker, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, **Jack O'Connell**. Fire Chiefs and fire personnel from across Santa Clara County and Sacramento showed their support for the program by attending in uniform and provided fire engines as a backdrop to the festivities.



Congressman Honda with Fire Science & EMT Students

The hour long event included a \$95,304 specialized funding announcement by Rep. Honda and a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition to MetroED's Fire Science/EMT programs.



SPI Jack O'Connell

Two local firefighter unions, Local 1165 and Local 230 announced four new scholarships designed for CCOC Fire Science/EMT students. Local 1165's memorial scholarship is in honor of **Mark McCormack**, a Santa Clara firefighter who died while fighting a house fire on February 13, 2005. The National Association of Hispanic Firefighters also announced that it gave two \$500 scholarships to CCOC students Alex Barron from Pegasus High School and Alex Ruiz from Independence High School.

SPI O'Connell commended CCOC's students and programs.

"The career technical education needed today, the kind that is offered here," O'Connell said, "provides students with both a sound academic foundation and a wide range of skills that will allow these kids to adapt to a number of professional and technical fields in the future."

MetroED's Governing Board along with elected officials from Campbell, Milpitas, and San Jose attended the event. **Nick Marinaro**, Palo Alto Fire Chief and President of the Santa Clara County Fire Chief's Association gave his glowing support to CCOC's programs. San Jose Fire Chief, **Darryl**

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**Von Raesfeld** also stated how impressed he was with how extensive CCOC's Fire Science/EMT program is.

At the completion of the ceremony, students displayed their skills, in full turn-out gear, at four skills stations: Knots & ropes, ladders, dummy drag, and fire hoses.

Guests were treated to light refreshments by the Baking & Catering Program and the Culinary Arts Program. Food was displayed on four fire safety themed tables set up by Baking & Catering instructor, **Jan Joseph**.

Rep. Honda, spent more than an hour after the event talking with students and parents, and posing for photos. Students also led Rep. Honda on a tour of the Fire Science/EMT classroom.

Law Enforcement students provided parking support, the Multimedia class took photos and the Video Production class videotaped the event.

## Twenty-Six CCOC Students Earn Grove Scholarships

Twenty-six Central County Occupational Center students and six former students will receive a Grove Foundation School-to-Career Scholarship valued at up to \$4,000 to spend on tuition, books and related educational expenses.

For some students, the Grove Scholarship means they will be able to focus on school instead of needing to work full-time and attend college full-time.

"The Grove Scholarship takes the stress off my shoulders on being able to pay for college," **Adrianna Rodriguez**, CCOC Medical Assisting and Mt. Pleasant High School student, said.



AM Grove Scholars

CCOC is one of ten high schools in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties that are eligible to participate in the Grove Scholarship program. CCOC's Scholarship winners come from 14 different high schools and represent 15 CCOC programs. The Health Occupations program had the most winners, followed by Truck Mechanics, Auto Body, and Medical Assisting.



PM Grove Scholars

The Grove Foundation received close to 200 applications from eligible schools in the San Jose and Santa Cruz area. Out of those, 96 students were awarded scholarships with CCOC having more winners than any other

school, **Jaime Kemmer**, Program Associate for the Grove Foundation, said.

While in college, Grove Scholars must maintain a minimum 2.5 grade point average, take a full course load, attend Grove Scholars events and program offerings, and continue their college career path. The scholarship is for up to \$4,000 as determined by the student's education plan.

The Grove Foundation was founded in 1986 by former Intel Chairman and CEO **Andy Grove** and his wife **Eva**. The Groves founded the School-to-Career program in 1998 in order to give students an opportunity to achieve their focused career goal in careers such as automotive technicians, paralegals, nurses, accounting, and medical assisting.

The scholarships are limited to students who plan to attend Cabrillo College, Evergreen Valley College, or San Jose City College to earn their career-focused two-year associates degree or technical certificate.

## CCOC Students Earn Top Honors at Regional SkillsUSA Competitions

SkillsUSA named 21 Central County Occupational Center (CCOC) students Gold medal winners at its Regional Competitions held



CCOC Forensics Team #2

February 2 in Salinas and February 9 at CCOC in San Jose.

Seventeen other students from CCOC took home the silver. Out of 53 CCOC high school and adult students who competed in the regional competitions, 35 students will advance to represent CCOC in the SkillsUSA State competition

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## AveNEWS

Vol. 22, No. 1 - February 2008

AveNEWS is a publication of Metropolitan Education District which administers the Central County Occupational Center/Programs for six South Bay school districts and the Metropolitan Adult Education Program for two school districts.

At its 242,000 square foot Career Technical Education Center at 760 Hillsdale Avenue in San Jose, Central County Occupational Center provides job training for students from more than 30 local high schools as well as adults from the South Bay region. Training is tuition-free or at a nominal cost in 33 career-technical fields including computer technology, health, business, manufacturing, automotive systems and service technologies.

MAEP offers programs at no tuition or at nominal cost to adults in such categories as high school diploma, adult literacy, English as a Second Language, older adults, handicapped adults, parent education, personal and professional growth.

Metropolitan Education District has an annual budget of approximately \$26 million and its staff of 575 full and part-time employees serves more than 30,000 persons each year. Classes and programs are offered at more than 70 locations throughout the community.

# PEOPLE & EVENTS

## CCOC Fire Science/ EMT Program Dedication Ceremony



Clockwise from left to right. Students line up for the Ceremony. Instructor Phil Gonzalez addresses the Crowd. Student Speaker Kevin Tully speaks about the program. Congressman Honda samples food served by students. Students display their Fire Science skills.



in Fresno, California, April 10-13.

This year's Regional SkillsUSA Competition was held over two Saturdays. Students who participated in the first half of the event in Salinas competed in the fields of Air Conditioning job skills demonstration, Auto Service Technician, Welding-Combination, Welding-Tig, and Collision Repair. CCOC was chosen to host the second half of the event in the fields of Air Conditioning, Diesel Technician, Forensics and Residential Wiring because CCOC could offer a high-quality hands-on competition in these areas. This is the first time since the mid 1990's that a portion of the Regionals competition has been held at CCOC.

SkillsUSA is a national organization for career-technical education students within trade, technical, industrial and health occupations. Annual competitions are held to encourage students to challenge themselves within their chosen technical careers.

### Automotive Program Gets a Boost through SB-70 Grant

Evergreen Community College recently received a two-year SB-70 grant for \$250,000 and is developing new curriculum under the direction of CCOC Auto Tune-up & Electrical Systems instructor, **Ed Van Hagen**. The grant is a win-win situation for both Evergreen and CCOC as neither would have been able to receive the funding without the collaboration.

One key goal of the grant is to increase student's math and reading skills. With grant funds, CCOC will hire two skill center assistants to help automotive students with their Math and Reading assignments. The grant also provides stipends for curriculum development and \$67,000 worth of training for 8 instructors to attend American Honda Motor Company's French Camp Training

Facility. The one week summer training will give teachers 14 units of curriculum, specialized tools and service manuals for Hybrid vehicles.

CCOC Teacher on Assignment, **Sara Crowder** is coordinating the grant for MetroED.

### New MetroED Board Member & Officers

The MetroED Governing Board has a new Board Member. **Frank Biehl** was appointed by the East Side Union High School District Board to serve a two-year term on the MetroED Board effective with the January 23 MetroED Organizational Board Meeting.



**Frank Biehl**

Biehl was elected to the ESUHSD Governing Board in 2006 and has lived in East San Jose since 1990. Prior to being appointed as MetroED's Board representative, Mr. Biehl served as an alternate Board Member for MetroED. ESUHSD Board Member **Eddie Garcia** is MetroED's new Board alternate from East Side.

The MetroED Governing Board elected new officials at its January organizational meeting. **Diane Gordon** from the Campbell Union High School District is the new MetroED Board President; **Ernie Dossa** with the Santa Clara Unified School District was named Vice-President, and **Rich Garcia** from the San Jose Unified School District was named Board Clerk.

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to help reduce the impact of these cuts, we must still cut both personnel and programs. These will be difficult reductions. MetroED has already downsized its support staff over the last four years, saving over \$1 million per year in on-going costs.

The MetroED Governing Board has passed a resolution calling on the Governor and legislature to put students first, reject across-the-board cuts that would damage our public school, and protect the voter-approved minimum funding law, Proposition 98.

It is my hope that California voters agree.

## Attendance Grows at World Garden Workshops

MAEP's monthly World Garden Workshops broke attendance records in January and February after the San Jose Mercury News highlighted the workshops two months in a row.

More than 100 gardeners attended the January Pruning Fruit Trees workshop and over 75 attended the Grafting Fruit Trees workshop. The workshops are free of charge and feature a different topic and Master Gardener each month.

Due to the growing success of the program, larger attended workshops will be held in the auditorium at Erikson Center. The March World Garden Workshop topic is how to Turn Trash to Garden Treasures by showing gardeners how to turn recyclables into garden art. Master Gardeners **Rod Rankin, Patricia Dunosky** and **Jeanne Eige** will lead this fun workshop on March 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at MAEP's Erikson center. Pre-register by calling 408-723-6450 or emailing ritab@metroed.net.

## CCOC Open House in March

Central County Occupational Center (CCOC) will open its doors to the community at its 39th annual Open House on March 14.

CCOC's staff welcomes parents, other students, businesses and community members to tour and observe hands-on student demonstrations throughout the campus-Silicon Valley's one-of-a-kind public career technical training facility.

CCOC-a unit of MetroED-offers more than 30 different technical training courses in the career clusters of Automotive Technology,

Building Technology, Business Technology, Cosmetology, Engineering/Industrial Technology, Visual Arts, and Health and Community Services.

CCOC's staff and student tour guides will be on hand to welcome parents, other students, businesses and community members to tour classes and observe hands-on student demonstrations throughout the campus on March 14 from 8-10 a.m., 1-3 p.m., and 6-8 p.m.

CCOC's Interior Design class will hold its annual design show featuring cultures from around the world. Under Interior Design Instructor, **Wendy Yegge**, students work in small teams decorating small room settings to fit the theme on a shoe-string budget. Rooms are decorated with furniture, lighting, accessories, sound, food, and any other personal touches to complete the room's theme.

CCOC's Student Council will host a "Gong Show" talent show from 7 to 9 p.m. in the auditorium. A light meal prepared by CCOC's Culinary Arts and Baking & Catering Classes will be available, free of charge, in the cafeteria from 5 to 6 p.m.

## Tech High Night Coming

MetroED will host its annual Tech High Alumni night on March 8 at the American Legion Post 99, 1344 Dell Avenue, Campbell. The event is open to students who attended San Jose Tech High and San Jose Regional Vocational Center through 1967.

Cost is \$27 per person (payable in advance) with a social hour/no-host bar at 4:30 p.m. followed by a buffet at 5:30 p.m. Eligible alumni who did not receive a registration packet in the mail should contact **Pat Campbell** at 408-723-6414.

## Metropolitan Education District

### Governing Board Members:

Diane Gordon, President	Campbell	Superintendent
Ernie Dossa, Vice President	Santa Clara	Paul R. Hay
Richard M. Garcia, Clerk	San Jose	
Marsha Grilli	Milpitas	
Cynthia Chang	Los Gatos-Saratoga	
Frank Biehl	East Side	
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MetroED is the largest career-oriented organization comprised of high school and adult career-technical, academic and community programs. It annually provides more than 30,000 diverse students with the skills to help them be productive, income-earning and tax-paying contributors to Santa Clara County.

**WHAT COULD YOU BE?**