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## New Member Spotlight!

The CREC welcomes Bennett School District!



Located in Bennett, Colorado, the district is home to an elementary, middle and high school. The school district's mission is *to provide a safe environment for a quality education with high expectations for success, ensuring students obtain the necessary skills to achieve their full potential and to think critically as responsible citizens in a complex, diverse, and ever-changing world.* Bennett hosts numerous classes including vocational programs such as business, agriculture, and industrial arts. The district also has a Library Media Center which provides information literacy skills to all grade levels.

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## Genesis Groups - Connecting our Efforts Across the State

The CREC is connecting diverse groups of leaders, educators, and partners across the state to discover, share, leverage resources, and plan action around the following high priority areas.

### **Student Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) - Upcoming S-CAP events and more!**

The Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP), its five founding districts (Buena Vista, Buffalo-Merino, Kit Carson, LaVeta, and Monte Vista), and partners Battelle for Kids, Generation Schools Network, and the University of Colorado

Denver Center for Practice Engaged Education Research are the recipients of a \$1 million, three-year William and Flora Hewlett Foundation grant. The grant will support the further development of S-CAP, a collaborative, innovative school improvement initiative focused on helping rural districts use multiple measures in evaluating student learning to better reflect and communicate growth of the whole child in a meaningful way.

SCAP is excited to announce that the project is looking to have additional districts join the S-CAP group. If you are interested in learning more and being part of the project.

We'd love for you to join us at our next Systems Site Review (SSR)!

Please join us for the upcoming Holyoke System Site Review!



Holyoke S-CAP SSR  
Monday **April 23, 2018**  
Register [here!](#)

*"Attending System Support Reviews can be a valuable professional development opportunity for teachers, board members and administrators. We have heard from administrators that it is the most helpful feedback they have ever received and from teachers that it has significantly reduced isolation and seeded ideas and relationships to solve problems of practice".*

Lisa Yates, Superintendent Buena Vista School District

### **Teacher Leader and Efficacy- SE Rural Networking reception**

The Colorado Rural Education Collaborative and Colorado Rural Schools Alliance hosted the Otero Regional rural networking reception on April 10th at Otero Junior College in La Junta, Colorado. Nearly 50 educators and community members attended the reception. Attendees learned about the exciting educational and work-force opportunities available to rural students and rural communities through connecting providers of advanced coursework, STEM and other learning opportunities for students and staff to school and district staff. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from higher education partners across the state, and learn about pathways for teacher credentialing. The CREC and the Alliance will be hosting similar event in other regions.



*Educators and Community members gathering for the SE Networking Reception.*

If you are interested in hosting or supporting an event in your region please contact [Kirk Banghart](#) or [Michelle Murphy](#).

### **Leveraging Learning on the 5th Day**

*Donnell-Kay Releases Leveraging Learning on the 5th Day Video:*

The following [video](#) commissioned by the Donnell-Kay Foundation and their partners at the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation out of Idaho, highlights work around Leveraging Learning on the 5th Day (LL5).

LL5 is a grant pilot that aims to build authentic learning experiences that are both learner centered and informed by and grounded in community assets. Five rural communities across Colorado are taking part in LL5, and early takeaways suggest that the learning taking place outside of "school" may in fact help rural school districts with the current realities they face around teacher shortages and a shrinking tax base.

If you want to learn more about the 5th Day work, please contact [Antonio Parés](#).

### **College and Career Readiness - Military & Protective Services Career Exploration Workshop coming to Pueblo as a central hub for rural districts in Southern Colorado**

On Friday April 27th, Pueblo West High School will host a Military and Protective Services (fire, police, EMS) Career Exploration Workshop (MAPS) open to all interested students and families. The MAPS



Exploration Workshop is a one-day event in which students and their families explore military and protective services (EMS, firefighting, law enforcement) careers. The purpose of the Workshop is to encourage students and parents to consider military and protective services as an achievable pathway to pursue after high school. This event will provide opportunities to directly communicate with members of each branch of the military, protective services personnel, training and higher education partners through multiple interactive sessions.

Pueblo West High School  
**Friday April 27, 11:00am-2:00pm**  
 Click [here](#) to register!

*A Highlands Ranch student tries on an Army suit at the most recent MAPS Workshop.*

### **Social and Emotional Learning - Social Emotional Learning Programming Expands within the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative!**

Through the generosity of the James Walton Foundation and the Einhorn Family Charitable Trust, the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative (CREC) was awarded two social emotional learning (SEL) integration grants to expand Generation School's Advocacy program to 13 rural school districts that are members of the collaborative.

The grant will provide the districts with a 6-month planning period in which the districts will undergo an analysis of current SEL efforts and develop a customized curriculum scope and sequence to ensure the program will best meet the needs of all students in the district when Advocacy is implemented during the 2018-2019 school year. Additionally, staff will receive training and professional development throughout the grant period, as well as continuous progress monitoring on the effectiveness of the program using an SEL assessment.

Congratulations to participating districts: Aguilar, Bayfield, Bennett, Canon City, Deer Trail, Holyoke, Huerfano, Las Animas, La Veta, Peyton, Primero, Salida and Sargent!

### **STEM- Exciting news for Canon City HS and more!**

Congratulations to Canon City High School on receiving a state grant! This grant will help fund two years worth of STEM curriculum. To learn more about this exciting news for Canon City, click [here!](#)

Click [here](#) to sign up for a free webinar on Adapting Student and Teacher Practices for the New Science Standards!

### Teacher Recruitment and Retention - Teacher Immersion Experience

On March 28th and 29th, the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative, Generation Schools Network and the Santa Fe Trail BOCES partnered to host a hands on Rural Teacher Immersion Experience in La Junta Colorado. This immersion was created to expose teacher candidates to the opportunities that rural towns hold. Through the course of the Immersion Experience, thirteen teacher candidates were able to visit and interact with six school districts and their staff members, spend time in the classroom of their certification area with teachers, and experience living in a small close-knit community. This event was made possible by the Gates Family Foundation.

#### *Rural Openings and Teacher Resumes now on CREC Website!*

The CREC has added a new section to our website titled "Teacher Openings". In an effort to connect students to the amazing communities and schools of rural Colorado, the CREC has created a job resource page. If you are an administrator or superintendent, you can post your school's job openings here! Future teachers are also encouraged to look at these openings and fill out a form on this section to submit a resume.

To check out the website and teacher openings, click [here!](#)



*Teacher Candidates visiting Swink School District!*

If you would like to join the conversation, please contact Kirk Banghart at [kbanghart@generationschools.org](mailto:kbanghart@generationschools.org).

## Upcoming Events:

### S-CAP Professional Development Opportunities!

The Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) is actively looking for people to attend and participate as a Reviewer or Observer.



- **Holyoke S-CAP SSR**, for more information, click [here!](#)

### Military and Protective Services Career Exploration Workshop

- Pueblo West High School  
**Friday April 27, 11:00am-2:00pm**  
Click [here](#) to register!

## Save the Date! Colorado RURAL EDUCATION SUMMIT - CASE Pre-Conference

- \* Beaver Run Resort, Breckenridge, CO  
**Tuesday, July 24** from 10:00am-2:00pm  
 CREC Membership Forum: 2:00-4:00pm  
 Register [here!](#)

Join us at the 2018 Rural Education Summit on **July 24**, to kick-off the Colorado Association of School Executives Summer Convention in beautiful Breckenridge. Participants will spend the day between 10:00 and 2:00 being inspired, joining work sessions, influencing rural synergy, and expanding access to best practices in rural education across Colorado. The theme for the 2018 Rural Summit is "Power of Partnerships" that will be highlighting exemplary programs in the areas of mental health, college/career readiness, and rural district/university partnerships for recruitment and retention. Model program representatives will be providing presentations regarding examples of proven strategies for successful outcomes that are adaptable to multiple rural contexts across the state. Rural education policy makers, stakeholders, practitioners, and higher education faculty are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided, and participants will have opportunities for extended conversations to consider adoption of promising practices in the three areas of focus for the Rural Summit.

Hosted By  
 Colorado Rural Education Collaborative  
 Colorado Rural Schools Alliance  
 Colorado Center for Rural Education  
 Colorado Department of Education  
 Colorado Department of Higher Education  
 Colorado BOCES Association  
 Colorado Association of Schools Board  
 Colorado Association of School Executives

### Questions?

Contact Harvey Rude at [harvey.rude@unco.edu](mailto:harvey.rude@unco.edu) for additional details.

## Save the Date: National Forum to Advance Rural Education!



If you're looking to engage with national experts, leading researchers, K-12 and higher education practitioners, policymakers, and philanthropic leaders to advance conversations and ideas around innovative rural leadership, practice, research, and policy, this is THE event for you!

If you share our passion for advancing rural education, we hope you will join us and help unite and inspire people to action!

To learn more, click [here!](#)

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## Get Involved with CREC

Kirk Banghart, Chief Facilitator - Colorado Rural Education Collaborative

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Colorado Rural Education Collaborative | <http://www.coruraledcollab.org/>

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See what's happening on our social sites:

