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Redefining Rural Podcast - New Episode!

State Board of Education Candidate and Executive Director of CASE

Redefining Rural is a Colorado State University - Global Campus sponsored series. This series is focused on bringing awareness to the rural communities of Colorado in the education sector.



In the latest episode, Kirk Banghart of the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative, and Michelle Murphy of Colorado Rural Alliance, speak with Lisa Escárcega, Executive Director of the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE) and a candidate for the State Board of Education. As Executive Director of CASE, Lisa represents more than 2,400 Colorado education leaders in Colorado, in both rural and metro areas. Join us for a conversation about Lisa's experiences with rural education and what she feels she can bring to the State Board of Education. Listen [here!](#)

Upcoming Grants

Growing Rural Student & Teacher Interest And Capacity In Coding

The Colorado Rural Education Collaborative (CREC), in conjunction with BitsBox, is seeking to further develop the capacity of rural districts and teachers to encourage student interest in technology through coding lessons. BitsBox's coding kits, which include



start-up videos, teacher-oriented workbooks, and materials for students, will serve as a resource for teachers to use in their classrooms to spark student interest in coding and offer preparation for coding careers .

Grants Available!

The CDE Computer Science Activities Grants Program (deadline to apply April 10, 2020), was created by House Bill 19-1277. The purpose of the funding is to increase enrollment and participation of traditionally underrepresented students in computer science education activities. GSN also has funders interested in funding this type of work across the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative districts.

21st Century Community

Learning Centers

is a CDE grant program designed to support districts in providing students opportunities for academic enrichment, offering students a broad array of additional services, programs, and activities after school and in the summer, as well as offering families opportunities for active and meaningful engagement in their children's education. The grant provides up to five years of funding at approximately \$50-150,000 per year. The grant application is due April 17, 2020.



Please contact **Meredith Foulke** at 720-452-3607, mfoulke@generationschools.org if you are interested in receiving support around either of these opportunities.

Genesis Group Updates

Teacher Recruitment & Retention

Oxford Teachers Academy Presents: A Webinar for Teachers

Teacher shortages have reached crisis levels in the US. In response, our nation has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in developing new teachers for underserved communities, but we have largely forgotten rural schools.

In partnership with the CREC, the Oxford Teachers Academy has created a new kind of university - one that develops quality, lifelong teachers for rural schools. In our program, rural adults work as paid apprentices while they earn their college degree and teaching credential.



This approach allows us to target rural teacher shortages in ways that urban centric programs cannot. We receive federal financial aid for each apprentice, such that we are self-sustaining on earned income once we exit the startup phase.

We're local. We're affordable. We're precise.

[Learn more here.](#) Contact Kirk Banghart at kbanghart@generationschools.org.

San Luis Valley Math Professional Learning Community

Within Generation Schools Network's model, teachers participate in one or more Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) with weekly sessions. Rather than requiring



SAN LUIS VALLEY BOCES

teachers to pursue continuing education on their own time, the PLC program schedules time for shared learning experiences and ensures the team is on track based on teacher observation and student achievement data. On February 28, the GSN team met with 12 math teachers elementary through secondary and provided training on cooperative grouping in the classroom. We discussed group roles and norms and were able to practice among our own groups while tasked with a real world math problem. We also read an article regarding teacher self care and had an insightful discussion including "tips" from all participants. Going forward, teachers will review data, evaluate student work, adjust teaching strategies, expand blended learning practices, and prepare to implement evidence-based strategies in educational mathematics.

Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)

We are currently looking for ten new districts to join S-CAP which is at the forefront of peer-driven innovation in the accountability space. If you are interested in learning more about S-CAP or becoming a member, please visit the S-CAP website and plan on attending one of our School Site Reviews (SSR).



SSR reviewers analyzing data in teams.

Check the SSR dates on the S-CAP [website](#), register and bring teachers with you. Teachers have said that attending an SSR is some of the most valuable PD they have ever experienced.

You can learn more about the S-CAP program and services offered by clicking [here](#) or watching the video at this [link!](#)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Welcome New SEL Districts!

DeBeque School District



DeBeque Dragons

community service, collaboration, perseverance, and innovation.

De Beque is a small mountain community of about 500 residents nestled beside the Colorado River. The K-12 school's mission is to provide exceptional opportunities to achieve personal, career, and college success through partnerships with parents and community. All students are provided a safe learning environment to instill high standards of academic success, integrity, leadership and responsible citizenship. DeBeque is dedicated to excellence,

Kit Carson School District

Kit Carson is a small, rural community located on the eastern plains of Colorado. The K-12 school has an enrollment of 130 students and is a founding district of the Student-

Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) which focuses on meeting the needs of the whole child.

Monthly SEL Forum

If you are interested in learning and collaborating with others around SEL implementation in your school, please join the Monthly SEL Forum. The next SEL forum will be March 31st from 3:30-4:30pm. The topic is centered around GSN's Advocacy Goal #3: Parent Engagement. You can join the call by using this link: <https://zoom.us/j/313425390>.

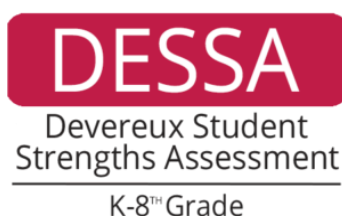


Past SEL Forum Topics can be accessed [here](#).

SEL Expansion Grant Updates

During the 2018-2019 school year, Dr. Lee Morgan, Assistant Professor at the University of Northern Colorado completed research on the effectiveness of GSN's SEL program:

- The University of Northern Colorado examined data from multiple administrations of two survey instruments, Aperture Ed's mini-DESSA (K-6th grade) and The Indigo Project's Indigo Survey (7-12th grade) to investigate potential of implementing the GSN Advocacy program across 15 Colorado districts.
- DESSA data demonstrated that primary students made significant gains in relationship skills, social awareness & responsible decision making, between the first and second administration of the DESSA survey. Teachers scoring patterns over time suggest an increased understanding of their students' social emotional competency levels.
- Indigo data revealed that secondary students who scored in the lowest SEL quartile at the beginning of the Advocacy program achieved the most significant social emotional growth by the end of the year. The majority of these students moved up to a higher scoring quartile by the end of the year. Most notable was the positive correlation found between student SEL scores and self-reported GPA, indicating that social emotional health can have a significant impact on student academic success.



Overall, findings indicate that participating students gain Social Emotional skills when attending a school where the GSN Advocacy Program is employed. Growth was also identified in specific indicators that have been shown to improve long-term student outcomes including school engagement and adult-student connectedness.

Thank you to the following schools and districts for participating: Aguilar, Bayfield, Bennett, Holyoke, Huerfano, Las Animas, La Veta, Peyton, Salida, Sangre de Cristo, Sargent, Sierra Grande and Weld Central.

To access a powerpoint presentation containing the full report, click [HERE](#) .

STEM

Computer Science PdWeek at Colorado School of Mines

CSPdWeek is back and will return to the Colorado School of Mines the week of July 19th-24th. This week-long professional development experience is directed towards computer science educators. The following programs are available, and all support teachers in offering inclusive and rigorous computer science learning opportunities: Bootstrap (Algebra, Data Science, Reactive or Physics), Exploring Computer Science, Beauty and Joy of Computing, Counselors 4 Computing. Scholarships and housing are available. Find out more information [here](#).



Female participants with numbers representing binary code. A binary code represents text, computer processor instructions, or any other data using a two-symbol system. The two-symbol system used is often "0" and "1" from the binary number system.

Seeking 3-6th Grade Teachers Interested in Teaching Students Coding

bitsbox

The CREC is forming a partnership with BitsBox and is looking for teachers in middle grades interested in teaching coding to their students to take advantage of current funding opportunities. If

you want to teach coding in your schools, please contact Kirk Banghart or Kym Myers at kmyers@generationschools.org .

If you would like to join the work of one of the CREC's Genesis Work Groups, please contact [Kirk Banghart](#) .

CREC Website Job Board

REMINDER: We advertise job openings on the CREC website and once a month, a job openings e-blast goes out to more than 100 agencies and higher education institutions, giving your postings a wider audience! In addition to the job board, teachers can submit resumes for superintendents and administrators to review. This is a great opportunity for our members to bring future educators into the amazing rural communities of Colorado!

To view our job board, click [here](#).

To submit an open position to our job board, click [here](#).

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 at the upcoming S-CAP System Site Review (SSR) events listed below:

View the **2019-2020 System Site Review full schedule** [here](#).

Tuesday - March 24

SEL Forum #6

Topic: Advocacy Goal #3 (Parent Engagement)

[Join Here](#)

Monday and Tuesday - March 30-31

Kit Carson

[Register Here](#)

Monday - April 27

Arriba-Flagler

[Register Here](#)

To learn more about S-CAP, click [here](#).

Contact Us!

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[f](#) [t](#) | <http://www.coruraledcollab.org>
