

## Grateful *by Dr. Lisa Fontana*

We are sliding into my absolute favorite time of year with Thanksgiving right around the corner. I'll admit to my continued disappointment with retail advertisers who skip this incredible holiday in favor of Christmas sales, and could you believe Egg Nog in the stores before Halloween? Anyway, there is much to be thankful for and I consider the work you all do every day on behalf of our children and families to be one of the things of which I'm most appreciative. I want to express here my sincere gratitude for YOU!

To illustrate the great things about education in Inyo County let me highlight some of the exceptional happenings I've witnessed in my almost 2 1/2 years as your Inyo County Superintendent of Schools. As many of you are aware, one of the legal responsibilities of County Superintendents of Schools is to visit every school in the county each year. I have done so each fall and spring, bringing County Board of Education members with me for the spring visits. During those visits I have witnessed many welcoming, caring yet rigorous classrooms. I've heard thoughtful teaching, interesting content and have seen student-centered classrooms, libraries, cafeterias

and school offices. There are beautiful grounds where children can play safely with their friends, safe routes to school where children cross streets with positive and supportive crossing guards. I've seen school administrators having fun with students and providing appropriate guidance when students needed it. While attending School Board meetings, I've listened to interested community members and their elected representatives focus on children. There are indeed many incredible things to be grateful for in our education communities in Inyo County!

During my short tenure here, I only had time to introduce one project and that is the One Million Acts of Kindness Initiative that many of you have supported. There is a tremendous wealth of kindness to highlight across this county and I so appreciate all of you who have, and continue to, participate with your students. To date, 3032 acts of kindness have been posted to our [inyokindness.us](http://inyokindness.us) website. Thank you for helping us highlight the ways in which kindness positively impacts our schools and communities. I want to give extra accolades to our students and staff at Keith Bright and Round Valley this year for very



quickly posting over 100 acts of kindness illustrating that kindness is alive and well in Inyo County! I hope you'll take the opportunity to spread more kindness on Veteran's Day (11/12) and National Kindness Day (11/13) and then post those acts on [inyokindness.us](http://inyokindness.us).

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## Scholarship Opportunities for Inyo County Teachers & Administrators

Thinking about adding an additional authorization to your credential? Working towards an administrative services credential? This is the scholarship for you! Scholarships are funded through the Inyo/Mono Consortium award of the California Education Development (CalED) Program Grant. One goal of the CalED program is to increase administrative and high-need teaching authorizations in California by offering tuition or testing fee assistance.

For the teacher scholarship, if you have taken a California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) or additional coursework towards a bilingual education, special education, math or science credential from July 1, 2017 to the present, you may [apply](#) for a \$250 scholarship. Documentation and a completed W9 is required in order to receive the reimbursement (see application for more details).

For the administrator scholarship, if you have taken or will take the California Preliminary Administrative Credential Examination (CPACE), or have incurred costs associated with taking coursework or a clear administrative services credential program from July 1, 2017 to the present, you may [apply](#) for a \$500 scholarship. Again, documentation and a completed W9 is required in order to receive the reimbursement.

Applications will be accepted until January 7, 2019. Preference will be given to those who have already expended fees within the grant timeline (July 1, 2017 – present), are currently employed in Inyo county school districts and then on a first come, first served basis until grant funds are expended. For more information, please contact Ilissa at [itwomey@icsos.us](mailto:itwomey@icsos.us) or ext. 2197.





## Grateful *Continued*

Additionally, I am most grateful to the staff of our Inyo County Office of Education. The bulk of our work is behind the scenes as we support our six districts and the charter schools authorized by our Board. Although most of you don't witness much of this excellent support, I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to our staff members who provide your schools with fiscal and technology support, special education guidance, counseling and behavior support, curriculum materials selection assistance, professional development experiences and many direct services such as college day field trips, student competitions (spelling, history, sci-

ence, speech, writing, etc.), family life and prevention lessons, alternative education placement options, science camps and field trips and more. We also partner with amazing organizations to enhance services to you and your students, such as with the Inyo Council for the Arts, Owen's Valley Career Development Center, Cerro Coso Community College, Inyo County Behavioral Health and Inyo County Probation.

As I leave the beautiful Eastern Sierra for the new chapter of my life in retirement, I want to be sure you all have heard from me how incredibly fortunate I know I am to have met so many amazing members of



our educational communities. You have enriched my life and for this I am forever grateful.

## 10th Grade College and Culture Field Trip *by Tiffany Randall*

In support of college and career educational efforts for students, Inyo County Superintendent of Schools partnered with local school districts to organize college and museum visits for students in 10th grade. Recently, Inyo County 10th graders visited Mt. San Antonio College and Cal Poly Pomona, and toured the Museum of Tolerance. Students described their experience at the museum as an opportunity to "change your point of view in a lot of ways" and "think about your actions." One student wrote, "I would 100% recommend this museum for every student." On the university campuses, students enjoyed eating in the dining halls, student-led campus tours and the "chill" dorms. As one teacher put it, "The kids left excited about their futures and making plans for college." Another teacher described the experience as "phenomenal" and commented that a highlight of the trip was "Seeing the kids' faces light up with the new experiences."

ICSOS would like to thank the chaperones and district staff that made this trip possible.

