



INYO COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

The Inyo Insight

An Education Newsletter from the Inyo County Office of Education

Volume 14, Issue 4

learn.inyocoe.org

November/December 2021

**NATIVE
AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH**

November is National Native American Heritage Month! Webinars, gallery talks, discussions, and other virtual events can be found on this [website](#). [American Writers Museum](#) is featuring many stories, and we also gathered the resources below using CalSnap. Sign in to view!



Student Spotlight: An interview with Lauren Loy

Inyo County Office of Education is pleased to recognize Big Pine senior Lauren Loy. Lauren is a member of the EL Student Advisory Council, NASA and PRIDE, and has been recognized by CTA, NEA Native American Caucus and other organizations. We interviewed Lauren about her experience on the EL council and were so inspired by her dedication to our community and nation.

Lauren shared that her educational journey was not always so positive. She struggled with motivation for school and it was not until she found her purpose that her mindset and work ethic changed. With the help of her teacher, Mr. Tim Steele, Lauren found her purpose and voice. Just a week before applying to the EL SAC she felt inspired to write a two page paper on ways that school systems could better support the individual learning needs of students. After contemplating what to do with her paper, she gave it to Mr. Steele who then encouraged Lauren to apply for a seat on the Council. Lauren shared, "To me it was almost like fate that all of this happened and that I was able to throw my hat in the ring and give it a shot to try to make it onto this council because I have always wanted to do something bigger and make a change in our education system."

Lauren was accepted out of many applicants nationwide to serve on the EL council. When asked about her experience on the council, Lauren was excited to share how she contributes educational experiences to EL to help expand or even help create Native curriculum. "What I would like to see and what I am

pushing for in EL is to take my school as an example of how much they've done and celebrated the Native American culture and apply that in other schools across America so that they are able to have more culturally appropriate curriculum and recognize my race as still being here today." She continued to elaborate

"When my culture isn't being taught about, especially in history, it is as if you are taking my peoples' history and saying that it is insignificant." Her main goal is to use her school curriculum as a foundation for other schools.

On October 11th, Indigenous People's Day, an article ([linked here](#)) written by Lauren was published and has now been read over 35,000 times. The article is about Native American culture at school and starts with the statement "As a young Shoshone woman I feel seen and celebrated at my school." Lauren shares about the different teachings and traditions that help students at her school feel valued. Lauren was also an opening speaker in the EL Education 2021 Virtual Summit ([linked here](#)) addressing an audience of over 700 educators from around the country.

Lauren will be graduating from Big Pine High School in the spring and is planning on attending Fort Lewis College in the fall with the goal of becoming a lawyer. She also plans to stay connected with EL to share more about Native American culture.



A message from the Superintendent

Dear Educators,

As we head into the Holiday Season and a well-deserved break is in your future, I would like to take a moment to say thank you! I realize that to say being an educator today is challenging is an understatement. At times, I know it can feel overwhelming and perhaps some of you are even questioning whether you still belong in the profession. Let me be the one to answer that question for you. The answer is yes, we still need you! Our children need you!

During this holiday season please take some time to remind yourself of all of the reasons that you became an educator. Remember that special teacher that inspired you to follow in their footsteps. Remember how much your own education changed your life and how you wanted to give that to someone else. Remember that you believed and still believe that all children deserve a great education. Remember, you wanted to be a part of it, and then realize that you still do!

There is no way around it, the past two years have been difficult, no one signed up for this! But, neither did our students and they need us more than ever. Please hang in there! I believe in what each of you brings to our schools and I am thankful for all the effort and dedication you give. It's still worth it, I promise!

Yours,
Barry



Equity Courses Available through Epoch Education

Inyo & Mono COE have partnered with Epoch Education to offer an asynchronous course series for educators and our community partners that work with our youth to develop an inclusive community where all children learn and thrive here in the Eastern Sierra. Each course takes approximately two hours to complete and can be done at your own pace. All school staff are welcome to enroll in the courses. This fall there are three courses available, with additional courses to be released this winter and spring. The first course in the fall series is *Compassionate Dialogue*. Participants will learn the Recognize, Interrupt, Repair protocol. This is a framework for engaging in dialogue to better understand where each person is coming from in order to address issues of inequity and create a common language for discussion. The second course is *Becoming Racially and Ethnically Conscious*. In this module, participants will learn how to create an inclusive environment where people do not have to downplay or hide aspects of their authentic identities. The third course in the fall series is *What is Implicit Bias?* This course defines implicit bias and participants reflect on how it informs our own beliefs, behaviors and experiences. School district or COE staff who complete the courses are eligible for a \$25 gift card incentive per course. If you are interested in enrolling please complete this [form](#) by November 17th. For more information, please see this [flyer](#).



Britannica and Teaching Books Available to Students

Digital literacy and research are highly important 21st century skills. Students now have access to California State Library resources Britannica School and Escolar as well as Teaching Books via the Clever landing page. [Britannica School](#) has leveled research features for elementary, middle and high school. [Escolar](#) is the Spanish version of the Britannica resources. Educators can create “packs” of saved resources by creating a free, personal account. Students can utilize these vetted images, articles and videos directly from Clever. If you would like to learn more about Britannica, check out this [short video for TK-2](#) (it’s never too early to start building research and digital literacy skills), these [tutorials for teachers](#), or watch the ICOE sponsored [Britannica workshop](#).



Also, available to students and teachers through Clever is [Teaching Books](#). This engaging set of resources includes readers theatre, author talks and interviews, tools to help students select a book based on interest and lexile, and much more. There are even full read alouds of some texts. To learn more watch these short videos for [elementary](#), [middle school](#), [high school](#), and [supporting English Learners](#).



TeachingBooks™

Don’t forget you also have access to CalSnap. CalSnap is a searchable, curated collection of safe and vetted K-12 resources for teachers **and** students. For a complete list of CalSnap partners, see this [document](#). If you would like a login for CalSnap, please contact Ilissa Twomey (itwomey@inyocoe.org or ext. 2197).



During the week of October 18th, 8th grade students participated in Virtual College Week to learn about various college pathways and career choices. Typically this event is held at our local community college, Cerro Coso. Due to the current guidelines, a virtual event was created and all sessions were accessed online.

Sessions included topics to help students get ready for high school, reflection, financial aspects of college, and more. The week concluded with a live webinar greeting from Inyo County Superintendent of Schools, Barry Simpson and Director of Cerro Coso, Deanna Campbell. Students then participated in a Graduate Panel session where they were able to (virtually) meet and ask current and graduated students about their college experiences.

Students reflected on each session and shared the following about their experiences:

"Whatever you want to do the future is up to you. You choose what your comfortable to do and that you do something that you want to do." -Lo-Inyo

"College isn't just about learning, it's also about being creative." -HSMS

"Allow yourself the uncomfortable luxury of changing your mind." -HSMS

"Start planning your future early." -OV

"I can do well in school so that I can graduate and then go to a college and follow my dreams." -BP

We thank all the teachers and staff that helped to make this college event accessible and successful for our students!

Teaching about Thanksgiving with Equity

Katie Novak and Mirko Chardin created [this resource](#) to prepare for teaching potentially harmful content through a lens of culturally responsive pedagogy.

