

# Clovis Unified is a purpose worth our best

By Eimear O'Brien, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

In the past few weeks I have had multiple reminders of what makes Clovis Unified a unique and special place whose cause is worthy of our best.

At our annual Crystal Awards I was reminded of this through the individual stories of our 24 employees of the year.

Each one of these individuals was cheered on by co-workers and family members as they were honored for being people who go the extra mile to make their small part of Clovis Unified the absolute best it can be for students and for our community.

Story after story was shared that night about this group of people who inspire the best in the rest of us because of the high standards they set for themselves, and the character and integrity with which they live out their service to our students and their co-workers.

Whether it was the student relations liaison at Pinedale who goes out of his way to help those in need in the community and who mentors many students on the campus; or the transportation leader who is regularly willing to hop behind the wheel and drive a route if there is a need (while layering in the rest of her responsibilities between stops and after hours); or the teacher who is so familiar with the unique needs of each of her individual students that she creates customized plans

for each of them so that they can excel, their stories are inspiring.

It's also championship season, and I've had the opportunity to cheer on teams competing for state and regional wrestling, soccer, basketball and mock trial titles (to

name just a few). Commitment to a high standard, to supporting each team member toward excellence, to putting in hours to hone talents, and to being willing to persevere were all qualities shared by these teams, regardless of

whether their field of competition was in a gymnasium or a court room.

January and February are also months in which we hold multiple student success conferences. These day-long goal setting workshops

are planned and facilitated by a wide ranging team of diverse educators and community mentors all of whom are focused on inspiring students of every culture and ethnicity to set goals and develop the tools to achieve them.

In between gala awards ceremonies; division, regional or state playoffs; and conferences, I've also spent hours each week on our school sites and in classrooms. There, I've witnessed our educational team leaving no stone unturned in a quest to inspire students to achieve at their very best.

Theodore Roosevelt made a compelling point when he said, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

That is true in everyday life and it is especially true when talking about students and their learning.

Connecting with students in a way that makes them want to learn from someone who they know cares about them as an individual is the intersection where the magic of great teaching takes place. In our classrooms, I see that magic happening, and it's because of our people.

There are many things in the world right now that may cause one to question whether or not they are worthy of our time or our deep emotional investment. My experiences over the past month have been a reminder that Clovis Unified is truly something special, something worthy of believing in, something worthy of giving our best to as an educational team and as a community.

As you look into the future, I encourage you find a way to connect with our school community. You won't regret the investment of time and emotional resources because the purpose we are all working toward is so deeply worth all that we can give.



Eimear O'Brien,  
Ed.D.

## LESSONS

Inspirations by, for and from our CUSD students



Special to CUSD Today

*Who believes in our students often before the students themselves do? School counselors! Clovis Unified campuses recently showered the counseling teams with appreciation during National School Counseling Week. From large thank you posters with custom messages, (pictured with Clovis East High Counselor Dr. Shr Lee), to special morning announcements and sweet treats, jesters of gratitude were presented by students and co-workers to these hard-working staff members who guide students in academics and high school course selections; college and career planning; and personal and social goal setting. Said district Guidance Learning Specialist Jeff Hodges, "School counselors create a school culture of success for all!"*

**“Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them.”**

LADY BIRD JOHNSON, FIRST LADY OF THE UNITED STATES, 1962-1969