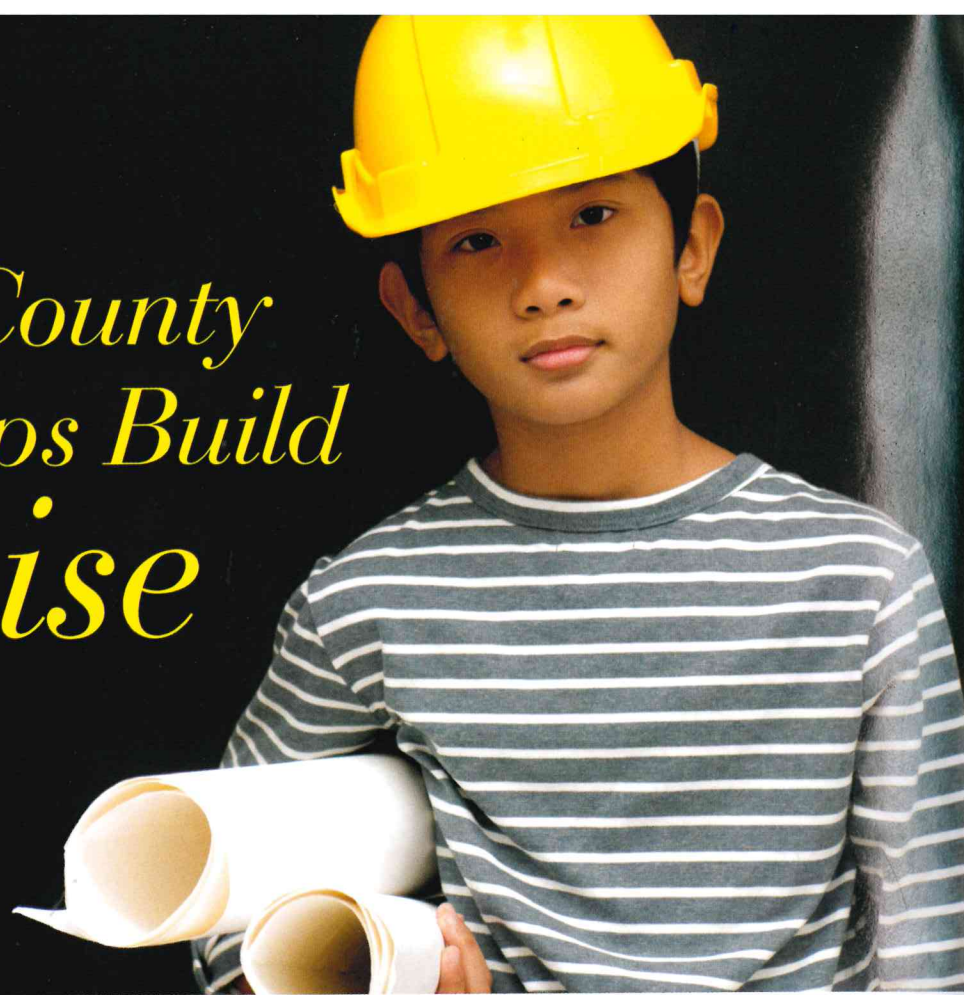


El Dorado County Partnerships Build Promise



BY DR. ED MANANSALA



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COUNTY OFFICE
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SUPERINTENDENT



BELIEF AND PROMISE IN our youth fuel extraordinary partnerships in El Dorado County! From El Dorado Hills to South Lake Tahoe, throughout our schools and across agencies, a strong support system creates opportunities for children facing unique challenges. At the El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE), we recognize that our county is uniquely strong in creating meaningful partnerships for the benefit of all children.

This summer, local adolescent foster youth gained professional skills and hands-on experience by participating in an innovative internship program through the El Dorado County Office of Education. Initiated in 2009, this annual program provides at-risk youth with in-depth guidance, training and employment opportunities. This foster youth internship program is a community effort, involving a number of local agencies and small businesses.

Interns begin with a week in an El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College classroom, receiving an orientation to the campus and academic programs. Behavioral health specialists from the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians teach time management, problem solving, healthy relationships, conflict resolution, stress management and more. Next, the youth attend workshops on resume writing, interviewing, communication, health, and

substance abuse, offered by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Foster Awareness Network and the El Dorado County Health and Human Services Agency. Wells Fargo Bank also introduces financial planning concepts. The interns leave our program with stronger life skills and community connections that will serve them for years to come.

I am also enthusiastic about the Pre-Apprentice Construction Training Program coming to El Dorado County. This exciting collaboration between Northern California Construction Training, the El Dorado County Probation Department, and EDCOE will provide hands-on vocational training. This training will afford its students a concrete pathway, and deliver a viable workforce for local construction employers.

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, I had the privilege of presenting the benefits of this initiative with Brian Richart, El Dorado County chief probation officer, who stated, "With NCCT's 85 percent rate of job-placement success, this is a much-needed investment that will benefit our community, while reducing recidivism."

I look forward to strengthening these existing partnerships, and exploring new ones that will facilitate strong systems of support for every El Dorado County student.