



# Santa Cruz County Office of Education

2008-09 Annual Report to the Community



Michael C. Watkins, County Superintendent of Schools

## Superintendent's Message

I AM PLEASED to provide the 2008 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Annual Report to the Community. In this 2008 year-end report, I have briefly compiled some of the educational accomplishments made at the Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE).

This has been a year of transition for the entire educational community. The primary function of the County Office of Education is to provide cost-effective, efficient and effective services and support to the school districts, schools, teachers, and students within our county. Prominently, in terms of both the service we provide and the transition affecting all schools and districts, are the mandatory fiscal services as well as other financial services the districts ask us to provide. In this year of fiscal uncertainty, the SCCOE remains mindful of our responsibility and our commitment to providing superior services. After 28 years of conducting business in a leased facility which no longer adequately provided efficiency to our services, we found it fiscally prudent to purchase a facility adequate to meeting our mission. We transitioned to our new location in August of 2008. The future effect of this transaction will save taxpayer dollars and enable us to provide enhanced services to students and teachers. As in any family, stability allows us to focus on our core mission – supporting the 38,000 students in this county by providing the opportunity to receive a 21st century education.

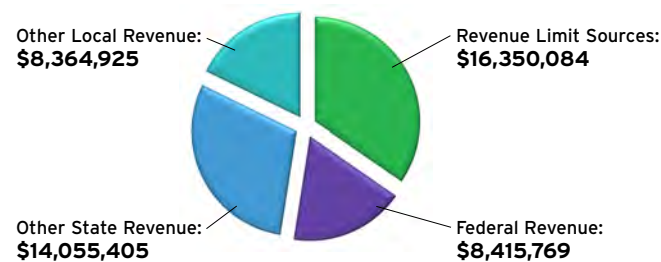
Many of the initiatives you will read about in this report—Project Impact, the Preschool Early Education Initiative, the Green Careers Program—are new and directly support students and teachers. Another recent introduction, Inside Education, is an innovative approach to achieve community involvement in public education.

Due to the current economic climate, which will inevitably lead to budget cuts to public education, the 2009-10 school year will be one of the greatest challenges to educators, students and parents in decades. It will require new collaborations, partnerships, and involvement. The ten District Superintendents, all District Boards, the County Board and the County Office of Education are committed to work together to ensure a quality education to all students.

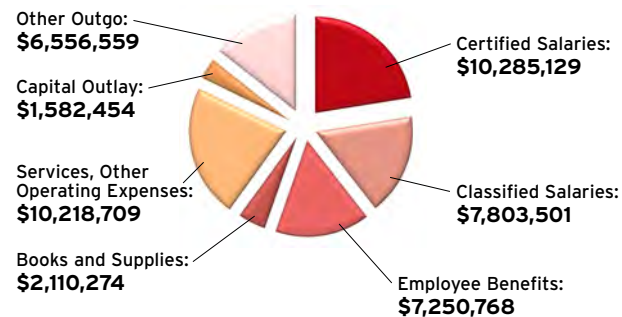
**MICHAEL C. WATKINS**, County Superintendent of Schools

## Santa Cruz County Education Revenues and Expenditures for 2007-08

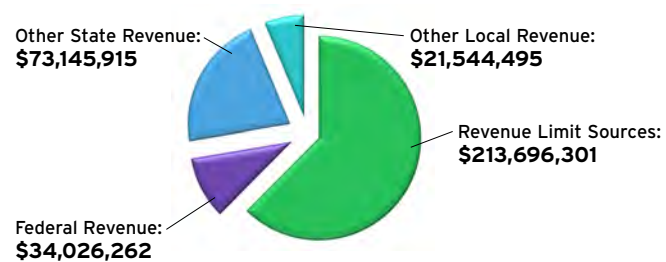
### SCCOE Total Revenues: \$47,186,183



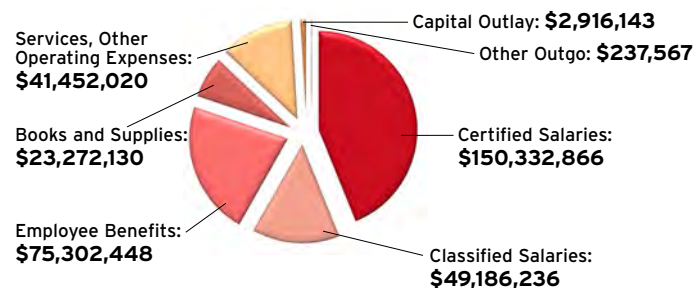
### SCCOE Total Expenditures: \$45,807,394



### School Districts' Total Revenues: \$342,412,973



### School Districts' Total Expenditures: \$342,699,409



## Public Education at a Glance

THE CALIFORNIA STATE Constitution established the office of County Superintendent of Schools over 150 years ago. Today, 58 county offices of education provide regional educational infrastructures that support more than 1,000 school districts.

### The Role of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education

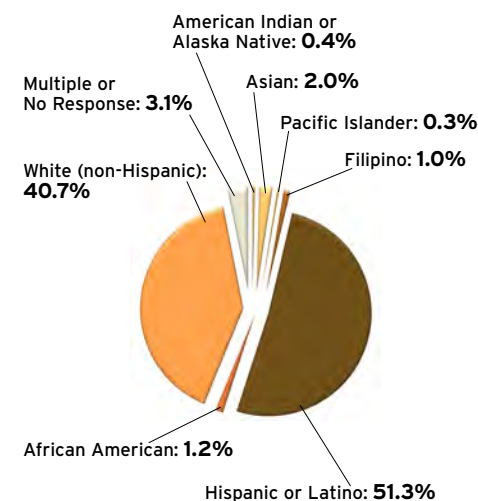
The SCCOE partners with local school districts and regional consortiums to improve teaching and learning in classrooms that serve the county's 38,132 students. Our direct services include special education, alternative education, career technical education, outdoor science education, law-related education, and several popular student competitions. We assist parents to locate child care and support the development of high quality child care programs. We provide fiscal, accounting and payroll services to the districts. Teachers, administrators and school support staff attend thousands of hours of our ongoing training opportunities. We convene stakeholder meetings and broker partnerships with community agencies and businesses to enhance public education.

### Santa Cruz County Board of Education

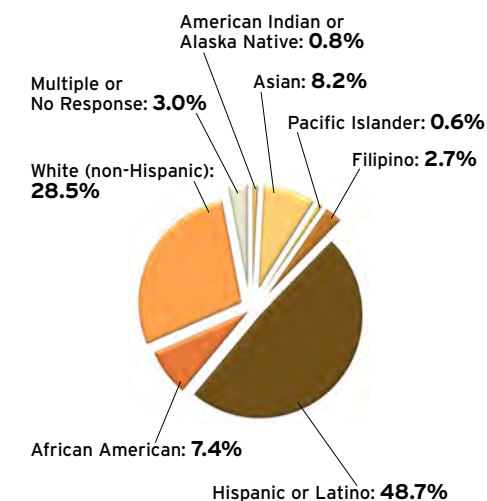
The County Board of Education is composed of seven trustees each elected by the constituents within each of seven trustee areas. The County Board of Education works in partnership with the County Superintendent to support SCCOE programs and services and educational programs within the county. Board approval of the SCCOE budget is mandated. The Board is the appellant body in matters of District expulsions and denied inter-district transfer requests. Regular meetings, which are open to the public, are the third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the County Office of Education. Information is available at (831) 466-5901 or on the SCCOE's website.

### Student Demographics, 2007-08

#### Santa Cruz County



#### State of California



### 2007-08 County Education by the Numbers

Students	38,132
K-12 Schools	77
Charter Schools	11
School Districts	11
K-12 Average Class Size	24.4
English Language Learners	10,647
Teachers (full-time equivalent)	1,792
Administrators (full-time equivalent)	202
Classified Employees	1,625

### 2007-08 Enrollment by School District

Bonny Doon Union Elementary	131
Happy Valley elementary	141
Live Oak School District	2,194
Mountain Elementary	165
Pacific Elementary	106
Pajaro Valley Unified	19,420
San Lorenzo Valley Unified	3,546
SCCOE	1,121
Santa Cruz City Schools (Elem/HS)	6,983
Scotts Valley Unified	2,645
Soquel Union Elementary	1,680

SOURCE: CA DEPT. OF EDUCATION

### County Enrollment Change by Year

1997-98	39,707
1998-99	40,512
1999-00	40,706
2000-01	40,462
2001-02	39,954
2002-03	39,427
2003-04	39,140
2004-05	38,358
2005-06	38,555
2006-07	38,062
2007-08	38,132

### Santa Cruz County Board of Education

TRUSTEE AREA 1	Aaron Hinde
TRUSTEE AREA 2	Jack Dilles
TRUSTEE AREA 3	Arnold Levine
TRUSTEE AREA 4	George "Bud" Winslow
TRUSTEE AREA 5	Vic Marani
TRUSTEE AREA 6	Dana M. Sales
TRUSTEE AREA 7	Kathy Mann

## Business Services

The SCCOE Business Services Division is responsible for managing the COE's internal financial services as well as providing business support services to our local school districts. With the current condition of the state budget (the major source of school funding), it is more important than ever for the COE to assist districts with fiscal guidance and support over the next several budget years as districts work to improve student achievement while remaining fiscally solvent. In addition to fiscal guidance and support, the SCCOE will be instrumental in working with the State Teachers' and Public Employees' Retirement Systems on implementation of new regulations and software to ensure that data reported for all school district employees throughout the county is accurate and up to date. The Business Division will continue to provide customer service and training in payroll, accounting and budget processes and software to district and COE staff. The county office also performs many ongoing services to school districts such as payroll audit and processing, accounts payable audit and processing for vendor payments, pupil attendance accounting and budget review. The current and future budget years will pose significant challenges for our local districts and the SCCOE. We will continue to provide guidance and information on fiscal matters to our districts and to all our stakeholders.

## Inside Education: An Innovative New Community Partnership Program

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the ten local school districts have joined with professionals, community, business and civic leaders for a first-hand, interactive look at the public education system in Santa Cruz County. The mission of the program is to build public awareness and support for public education. The series of nine, intensive half-day, monthly seminars is designed to educate the participants on current issues effecting public education and highlight the successful programs that are offered in the schools, and work to understand the challenges of educating and preparing students for the 21st century. The series seminars include classroom site visits and hands-on participation in a variety of school programs and events. Applications will be available in February for those community members who would like to participate in the 2009-10 school year.



**“ It is more important than ever for the COE to assist districts with fiscal guidance and support over the next several budget years. ”**

**“ The mission is to build public awareness through a first-hand look at the public education system in Santa Cruz County. ”**

## Green Careers

Natural Bridges High School and Green Careers Program is an Alternative Education Program and Regional Occupational Program collaborative that provides high school education and employment training for students interested in pursuing “green” careers. The curriculum focuses on environmental education including Monterey Bay ecology, environmental issues and solutions, local history, local economics, as well as other high school graduation requirements. The ROP program provides training in construction, sustainable agriculture, digital media and a survey course in green careers. Hands-on activities in green building, alternative energy and transportation, green retail, natural resource protection, organic farming and outdoor recreation allow students to gain first-hand experience in Green Careers to enable them to identify career areas they wish to pursue. Comprehensive high school students can choose to attend only the ROP portion of the program while continuing enrollment at their home high school. Other program goals include teaching public speaking and presentation skills using the latest computer and video technology, and developing youth leadership skills by providing opportunities to participate in local conservation efforts and programs. Graduates of the program achieve a thorough education in Monterey Bay environmental issues and potential solutions, leadership skills to permit them to work effectively in our community, and a comprehensive plan for future education and training.



## Innovative Path to Teacher Credentialing

Project IMPACT Santa Cruz is a partnership between the San Joaquin County Office of Education and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education as a fully accredited teacher certification program sanctioned by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The SCCOE has made it a priority to address difficult-to-fill teaching positions and the necessity of intern teachers having to travel outside of Santa Cruz County for their credential programs, by providing a local alternative route to earning a teaching credential. Project IMPACT Santa Cruz is currently an Education Specialist (Mild/Moderate & Moderate/Severe) program, with its first cohort beginning in January 2009.

Timing, cost, locality and support are some of the benefits. Classes are held at a time and frequency that allows a teacher to work full time. The intern program is grant funded so the tuition is much less than most other teacher preparation programs. Intern teacher support comes from a variety of sources including instructors, practicum supervisors, peers, and peer coaches. Best of all, classes are held right here in Santa Cruz! Project IMPACT Santa Cruz is another example of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education providing much needed support and assistance to the districts, teachers and students of Santa Cruz County.

**“ SCCOE has made it a priority to address difficult-to-fill teaching positions. ”**

## Assisting Homeless Youth to Achieve

The Students in Transition Program works with local schools and service providers to assist homeless children overcome barriers that prevent them from enrolling and staying in school. Services include enrollment assistance, advocacy, tutoring, referrals to other support agencies, and provision of school supplies and backpacks.

We reach out to our community for school supplies or cash donations. Our generous community donated nearly \$11,000 in cash donations and an estimated \$15,000 in school supplies. Available space in this publication does not allow acknowledgement of all donors, but as an example, business contributors include Costco, Westek Electronics, Seagate Technology, and Balance of Power Pilates. Local community organizations that contributed are the Christian Life Center, Brownie Troops, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and the Loma Prieta Club to name a few. Our youngest contributor, an 8-year-old girl asked her birthday guests to bring donations for the Write-Start Project rather than presents for herself.

This year to date, the Write Start Project has provided over 1,500 backpacks filled with supplies to homeless and needy children throughout the schools in our county.

## Student Support Services

Santa Cruz County underage drinking and driving statistics parallel national and state data. In an effort to address the issues of underage drinking in an insightful and creative manner, the Law Related Education Programs, Student Support Services, have been awarded funds from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to conduct Real DUI Court in School presentations at local high schools during the 2008-2009 school year.

The Real DUI Court in Schools Sentencing Program combines a real DUI sentencing hearing with the judicial outreach and education model to

**“ Working to assist homeless children overcome barriers that prevent them from enrolling and staying in school. ”**

emphasize to students the short- and long-term consequences of driving under the influence. The sentencing portion is an actual courtroom set up at the school site where authentic DUI cases of young adults are adjudicated. This provides realistic information to students about driving under the influence. Presentations incorporate youth DUI offenders being sentenced by a judicial officer; a young adult testimonial presenter; questions and answers with legal participants and testimonial speakers; and youth presenters.

To support these efforts, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, Law-Related Education Programs is partnering with Santa Cruz County Friday Night Live (FNL) Partnership to enhance the message and create lasting changes.

The Real DUI Court in School presentations further expand our long and highly respected County Teen Peer Court program which provides an alternative to incarceration for first offender juveniles.



## Addressing Autism

Autism affects 1 in every 150 children and 1 in every 84 boys in the U.S. (Center of Disease Control Prevention, 2007)

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) and the Morgan Autism Center collaborated to implement the Morgan Center Model into the Chrysalis Autism Program in Santa Cruz since July, 2008. The Chrysalis Autism Program serves twenty preschool through second grade students.

The SCCOE Morgan Center Model focuses on:

- Understanding the importance of attention
- Reliance on rote or procedural memory to develop positive behavior patterns
- The importance of structure that is consistent and predictable
- Meaningful reinforcement
- Errorless learning.

The Morgan Autism Center was established in 1969 to provide services for children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. They have gained recognition, both nationally and internationally, as a model autism program.

The Morgan Center staff is working onsite at the Chrysalis Program throughout the 2008-09 school year to continue training and consultation with the SCCOE staff.

**“ The Morgan Autism Center has gained recognition, both nationally and internationally, as a model autism program. ”**



## Supporting the Development of Teachers and Administrators

The Educational Services Division vision is to provide high caliber training for teachers. The infusion of state of the art instructional strategies and research keeps Santa Cruz County teachers on the forefront of instruction in academic content, ultimately bringing quality instruction to all students in their classroom.

Professional development for all educators in the county keeps the Educational Services Division busy. Training is provided within the academic content areas of math, science, English language arts, and academic interventions. Networks for administrators and district staff also provide unique opportunities for professional learning and sharing.

Support is also provided to districts with new curriculum adoption. This past year, the State Board of Education approved new math curriculum for district adoption. In November, English language arts curriculum was approved for adoption by districts. Each curriculum adoption is an opportunity for professional development focused on grade-level content standards, knowledge and awareness of current and confirmed research, universal access (equity) issues, formative and summative assessment processes, and lesson planning.

## Early Education: The Foundation for Future Growth

Ensuring the availability of high-quality care for children in Santa Cruz County is fundamental. Child care and child education are inseparable. The County Office of Education Child Development Resource Center (CDRC) and the local Child Care Planning Council (CCPC) collaborate to:

- Educate parents about child care options
- Provide professional training and incentives to early educators
- Inform the community about child care issues.

Someone other than a family member cares for the majority of children under the age of five in Santa Cruz County outside of the child's home. Research shows that 90% of brain development occurs between birth and age 5. Well-prepared, well-trained early educators are essential to provide the intentional, playful, nurturing, responsive care which children need during these years. The County Office of Education and our partners provide the continuing education and training that positively influences the experiences of children in all childcare settings by expanding the knowledge, skill and attitude of those who care for them.

In 2007-08, professional childcare providers attended 1,800 hours of professional development trainings and 2,180 parents received childcare provider referrals and information from our resource and referral technicians through our personalized phone services and our website at <http://www.CDRC4info.org>.



**“ Well-prepared, well-trained early educators are essential to provide intentional, playful, nurturing, responsive care. ”**

Our Master Plan for Early Care and Education and School Age Extended Learning asks for your help to implement and increase the options for children and families to thrive in Santa Cruz County. Learn how you can join others and be involved in the future of our children at <http://www.childcareplanning.org>.

## Academic Intervention Support

The Academic Intervention Support Program provides professional development and peer coaching and support to after-school teachers who, in turn, provide direct student academic interventions in reading and math in over 20 schools in Santa Cruz County. These interventions are provided in small groups by credentialed teachers using targeted, research-based interventions and engaging computer software.

In this school year, the program expanded to provide consultation and professional development services in support of the implementation of academic interventions to school site and district administrators. This work is focused around the newly formed County Office of Education sponsored Response to Intervention (RtI) Implementation Network. The network is a group of educational leaders representing schools and districts from all over Santa Cruz County. The purpose of the RtI Network is to provide for districts and schools to collaborate in developing and implementing intervention strategies to ensure success for all students.

**“ Credentialed teachers use targeted small-group, research-based interventions and engaging computer software. ”**

## eClassroom: Online Teaching and Learning Community

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education's eClassroom (<http://santacruz.uccp.org>), provides a web-based classroom environment to support teaching and learning. The COE partners with University of California College Prep (UCCP) to give teachers' access to UC certified "a-g" college preparatory, honors and Advanced Placement (AP) course curricula. UCCP courses are aligned to California content standards and are College Board certified. Teachers can also extend their existing courses and create an online classroom with announcements, activities, a drop box, forums, testing, a wiki, group projects and a grade book using moodle software.

Implementation sites include San Lorenzo Valley High School, SLVUSD Charter, Scotts Valley Independent Study Program, SCCOE Alternative Education Oasis Independent Study Program, SCCOE Special Education Program, SCCOE Regional Occupational Program, Cypress Charter High School, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, and Santa Cruz City Schools Ark Independent Studies.



## From Hexapod Robotics to Mercury Levels in Tuna Cat Food

The Santa Cruz County Science Fair supports the work of the classroom teacher and research community by promoting activities and events for students to engage in scientific research. Generous funding from Seagate, leadership from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and the volunteer efforts of community scientists, researchers, and educators enabled 432 students to compete in fourteen different categories this year.

At the Science Fair Awards ceremony, students received over \$14,000 in monetary awards from Seagate as well as special recognition awards given by the Society for Science and the Public. Forty-eight students qualified to attend the 2008 California State Science Fair in Los Angeles and four finalists were selected to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year the Science Fair celebrated the addition of six new schools participating at the fair. The County Office has worked to guarantee that all County student populations are represented in this special event and continue to make this the highest priority for the 23rd Annual Science Fair to be held on March 21, 2009.

## Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Induction Program

Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project (SC/SVNTP) marked the 20th year of work with participating teachers. Last year, 360 teachers successfully completed this nationally recognized program. The SC/SVNTP is proud to report a 92% average retention rate vs. 67% for the nation.

The SC/SVNTP has developed a collaborative model of support and assistance for participating (new) teachers as they enter the profession. The focus is to improve participating teachers' classroom practice, ensure student academic success and develop reflective teachers who are responsive to the diverse cultural, social, academic and linguistic backgrounds of all students.

Another goal of the Project is to assure that advancement of skills and knowledge occurs in a continuous flow from a teacher's pre-service



university program through the first 2 years of teaching and beyond. The contributions of school site administrators, mentors and other colleagues foster the development of these high quality educators.

The SC/SVNTP mentor is the cornerstone of the program. Exemplary experienced teachers are fully released from the classroom specifically to observe and coach participating teachers in their classroom. In addition, mentors assist with short and long-term planning, teach demonstration lessons and facilitate communication with site administrators and parents. They also assist the participating teachers in meeting requirements to earn a Professional Clear Credential.

## Outdoor Science School

A school without walls or desks, the Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School offers one of the most memorable educational experiences of the K-12 years. This year we will welcome 3,600 5th and 6th grade students and their classroom teachers to our program. The use of the out-of-doors as a learning laboratory compliments and enhances classroom learning and allows students the opportunity to develop a valuable understanding of and appreciation for their environment. Recently, the Outdoor School has partnered with the Every Child Outdoors Foundation which was founded on the principle that all students should have the opportunity to experience a week at Outdoor School regardless of financial circumstances. This year, thirteen county schools will be eligible to receive a grant applicable towards the student fees for attendance at the Santa Cruz County Outdoor Science School. We are looking forward to many more years of partnering with the foundation to bring every child outdoors. For more information on the Outdoor School Program and the Every Child Outdoors Foundation, go to <http://www.osp.santacruz.k12.ca.us>



## Supporting District Improvement

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is engaged in a collaborative effort with the Monterey County Office of Education aimed at supporting district improvement. The District Assistance and Intervention Team (DAIT) work focuses on improving seven areas of district systems. They are governance; human resources; fiscal resources; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; data systems and achievement monitoring; parents and community; and professional development. The goal of the DAIT work is to assist the district in building its capacity to perform at higher levels within the seven areas. Current DAIT work is in partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

**“ The goal of the DAIT is to assist the district in building its capacity to perform at higher levels within seven specific areas. ”**



## 2008 Student Academic Events

Students in Santa Cruz County have a variety of student events from which to choose throughout the school year. Winners of local academic contests often have the opportunity to compete in state, national and even international competitions opening a world of exciting possibility for them. The SCCOE and community partners support student events by funding associated costs.

### County Spelling Bee

The Santa Cruz Sentinel, University of California Santa Cruz and the SCCOE sponsor the annual spelling competition. The 2008 event attracted 228 participants in two categories representing grades 4-6 and grades 7-9.

### High School Poetry Competition

Santa Cruz student authors submitted 436 poems to the 15th Annual Poetry Competition. Sixty-two were published in the 2008 Anthology. Poetry Santa Cruz, the National Writers Union, Chapter 7, and the SCCOE co-sponsor the competition.

### Mock Trial

Over 120 students from seven regional high schools participated in the 2008 Mock Trial Competition. The Santa Cruz County Superior Court, Trial Lawyers Association, County Sheriff's Department, and the Constitutional Rights Foundation are all sponsors of this event that provides a living civics lesson to high school students.

### 41st Annual SCCOE Math Contest

Over 490 students from 29 elementary and middle schools, working individually and in school teams, participated in the 41st Annual SCCOE Math Contest. Students were challenged to use their problem-solving skills and creativity to solve math problems.

### 2008 Santa Cruz County Science Fair

Science Fair 2008 gave 432 students the experience of scientific discovery. Participating students have for a number of years ranked highest among state and international finalists. The County Office of Education acknowledges Seagate Technology's continued financial support which makes the Science Fair possible.

“Winners of local academic contests often have the opportunity to compete in state, national and even international competitions.”

