Meet the February Employee of the Month

Latishia Pedroza is a Credential Services Specialist for the Human Resources Department. She has worked with the SCCOE for 18 years and is driven by her passion to serve the public.

She began her career with the SCCOE in May of 2000 as an office assistant, and a few months later she transitioned into Credentials Specialist.

“I just wanted something different,” stated Latishia. “Being able to help somebody get to their end goal is what I enjoy doing.”

Among her many duties as a Credential Services Specialist, Latishia helps customers, completes expiration reports, and facilitates assignment monitoring, which assesses teacher credentials to ensure they are teaching the subject for which they are qualified. Read more.

Latishia will be recognized for her extraordinary work at the Santa Clara County Board of Education meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 6.

Amazing things are happening every day throughout the organization. Take time to acknowledge your teammates and co-workers by nominating them for an employee of the month! It’s easy just press the button below!

Step into Teaching: Opportunities in Silicon Valley Public Schools

Join us on February 9 for the Step into Teaching: Opportunities in Silicon Valley Public Schools event to help you learn and prepare for the joys of a teaching career.

- Discover what is needed to become a teacher
- Learn how to navigate the credentialing process
- Talk with representatives from local universities and teaching programs
- Learn about compensation, benefits, financial aid, and retirement

Attendees will also have the opportunity to interact with classroom educators and experts about the rewards and challenges of a career in the classroom. Register now!

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**Fourth annual COEAA Chili Cook-Off**

Is your chili cook-off ready? Bring it on!

Bring your chili to SCCOE and help raise funds to support the County Office of Education Administrator's Association (COEAA) Every Student Succeeding Scholarship. If you can't cook, you can still make a difference! Join us when the event opens at high noon, tastings are FREE, or buy a bowl and make a donation to the Ever Student Succeeding Scholarship. Top chili wins a cool prize and bragging rights!

Contact: Karen Larson (408) 453-6523

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**The Leader In You**

This year, each *Leader In You* will feature a talent theme or theme combination. Increasing awareness of each talent’s unique power and edge helps us appreciate our own contributions and the power of strengths-based partnerships and teams.

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**Strengths Spotlight: Input**

People with strong Input talents bring tools that can simplify, accelerate, and assist growth and performance. They love to provide relevant and tangible help to others. Their resourcefulness and curiosity lead them to store knowledge that can be culled and shared.

**Debunking Strengths Myth #1**

Adopting a strengths-based approach doesn't mean you can ignore your weaknesses.

**The Powerful Combination of Confidence and Humility**

Often these two traits are seen as weaknesses when in fact they are what makes a powerful, effective leader.

**To Get More Done, Focus on Environment, Expectations, and Examples**

Think of your comments, suggestions, and questions as pebbles you’re throwing into a stream: each one can have an impact far larger than you may intend. So always recognize the weight your words carry, and speak with intention.
February is Heart Health Month!
Join the SCCOE staff in SCCOE's Groove is in the Heart Campaign (now to Feb 28) and get a complimentary heart health screening, enjoy encouragement, and learn about wellness opportunities that support your heart health.

Lam Research Heart & Soles
Register and get a $10 discount for the Lam Research Heart & Soles Walk/Run event when you are one of the first 100 SCCOE staff to register. Click here to register, represent SCCOE in the corporate challenge for the most participation, and get $10 discount (coupon code SCCOE19).

The Lam Research Heart & Soles Run begins at Santa Clara University and loops through the San Jose Earthquakes Stadium - home of the Earthquakes. The Heart & Soles Run has raised over $500,000 for local charities that support student exercise and nutrition programs. Sign up today and join us in celebrating six years of running, jogging, and walking for a stronger community.

Join co-workers for this fun, family-friendly recreational event and:
- Support wellness for students including SCCOE Safe and Healthy Schools projects
- Get an SCCOE race shirt and show your spirit at the event while supply lasts
- Earn 250 or 350 Vitality Points depending on your distance
- Help SCCOE regain our title for the most registrations in the corporate challenge. We are currently in second place and need your participation! Go SCCOE!

Register for Eat Good Feel Good - Spring session begins March 4
Join this nutrition awareness campaign and make a real impact on the way you feel. Watch an introductory video (6 min) and earn 50 Vitality Points while you learn why and how others have developed consistency and confidence in a nutritionally confusing world. No calorie-counting food diary, teams, or group meetings. Earn 500 Vitality Points for completing the 8-week session. Need not be a Vitality member to participate.

For questions or information regarding SCCOE wellness program initiatives email Tricia Zamora or call (408) 453-3616.

Professional Development Opportunities
Two strengths workshops are available this month to all SCCOE staff on behalf of the Workforce & Organization Development department. These opportunities are available at no cost from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Feb. 13 and Feb. 26 at the Ridder Park office.
Understanding Your Strengths Profile workshop will help you:
- Better understand your strengths and make sense of your Strengths Insight Report
- Gain a greater understanding and appreciation of your individual talents
- Visualize your talents in action

Using Strengths to Resolve Conflicts will teach you how to:
- Discover creative ways to build partnerships with our colleagues
- Consider how different people with different talent themes approach different work
- Better understand how people are naturally inclined to behave based on their dominant talents
- Explore better strategies for aiming your talents to mitigate and resolve conflicts at work

*Non-Ridder Park staff, please contact Alice Serraon to schedule a workshop at your site.

Yes, you can become a first-time home buyer in Santa Clara County

Don't miss out on this exciting new opportunity offered to educators, school, and government employees in Santa Clara County! The 2016 Measure Affordable Housing Act provides down payment loan assistance for first time buyers with low to moderate incomes. Attend one of two informational sessions to learn about the program and how it may benefit you or someone in your family.

Join the County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, the County of Santa Clara, and Housing Trust Silicon Valley at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12 at SCCOE in the San Jose Room.

Space is limited and sessions are filling up, but there is still time to register! To sign up, click the date linked above.

For more information about the Empower Homebuyers County of Santa Clara Program, please visit the following website: https://housingtrustsv.org/programs/empower-homebuyers-a-new-santa-clara-county-program-administered-by-housing-trust/

Silicon Valley Reads 2019

Join Santa Clara County Library, San José Public Library, Santa Clara County Office of Education, and your community; read, think, discuss, and share perspectives on this year's theme “Finding Identity in Family History” for the 17th anniversary of the Silicon Valley Reads program.

The conversation will focus on three books, "Finding Samuel Lowe" by nationally-honored journalist and retired NBC executive Paula Madison, "It's All Relative" by best-selling author and immersion journalist A.J. Jacobs, and "The Stranger In My Genes" by CNBC/PBS business news anchor Bill Griffeth.

Check out the full calendar of events. Silicon Valley Reads 2019 will host the signature event on
Wednesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. at the Visual and Performing Arts Center at De Anza College in Cupertino where Mercury News columnist Sal Pizarro will interview authors Madison and Griffeth. Admission is free with open seating on a first come, first served basis.

**Columbia Sportswear Company**

The new year has arrived, and Columbia Sportswear wants to help you start the year strong! Whether you are starting a New Year’s resolution or planning your next adventure, the Columbia Sportswear Company Employee Store has got you covered! Winter has only just begun so be sure to come check out the latest apparel and gear for all of your cold weather activities.

**Santa Clara County Office of Education** employees are exclusively invited to access the employee store. Take advantage now as the invite runs **January 25– February 17** only! Please bring the attached flyer and proof of employment to the store between January 15 – February 17.

**Barracuda SPAM**

You may have received an email with the following subject line: “Barracuda Email Security Service Quarantine Notification.” This is NOT spam. As part of our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe email environment, the SCCOE activated the Cloud Protection Layer (CPL) of our Barracuda email security appliance. The CPL ensures that our email security setup balances with the increasing growth in email volume and attachment sizes; as well as the growth in the number of email clients CPL will prefilter email before it reaches our SPAM firewall.

As a result, users will receive an additional SPAM quarantine summary from Barracuda. There is a "Message Log" button that will show the SPAM scoring of each message and identify the reason the email was quarantined. Bulk emails are being quarantined, but there will be an opportunity to deliver and/or whitelist specific messages. You will need to whitelist the ones you want to continue to receive. The benefit of this change is that most SPAM will never reach your inbox. Should you have any trouble accessing this new system, please contact the Help Desk at ext. 4357.

**Student Jewelry Sale**

On Friday, February 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m students from the Post Secondary Program at the Campbell Community Center site will be hosting a jewelry sale in the Ridder Park cafeteria. This is an excellent opportunity to support our students, find gifts for loved ones, or treat yourself to something special. All proceeds help fund class activities such as cooking lessons or community outings. Stop by this Friday!

**2019 Updated Mileage Reimbursement**

The updated 2019 mileage reimbursement form is available on the Intranet for 2019 expenses; please use the 2018 form for any prior year expenses. This form will be available until the end of this month.

Tell your friends, now is the time to join #TeamSCCOE

For a list of all job postings, visit EdJoin.

**Certificated Positions**
Itinerant Audiologist
Psychologist
Speech Language Pathologist
Substitute Teacher - Alternative Education
Substitute Teacher - Head Start/State Preschool
Teacher - Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Teacher - Early Childhood Special Education
Teacher - Severe Disabilities
Teacher - Visual Impairments

Classified Positions

Education Interpreter I/II
Inclusion Services Specialist - Senior
Paraeducator - Special Education

Online Transfer Request
The transfer request process for classified employees is available online. Should you have any questions about the transfer process, please contact Veronica Contreras within Classified Personnel Services.

Want to share departmental events or news?

Is your team or department working on an interesting project or offering a service that you want to share? Submit a project request to Media & Communications for a social media post or campaign! We want to share the story of SCCOE with our audience, and that includes sharing what we all do every day.

Draft a brief memo (100 words or less), have it approved by your division chief, and email it to Riki Clark or call (408) 453-6513 for questions and News Roundup event tips.