



NEWS RELEASE

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Local Education Leaders to Speak at Elk Grove Chamber Event

Cosumnes River College (CRC) President Dr. Deborah Travis and Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) Superintendent Dr. Steven M. Ladd will be the keynote speakers at the 5th Annual Salute to Education on April 29 from 11:30 a.m. –1 p.m. at Cosumnes Oaks High School's (COHS) Culinary Arts Institute.

The theme of this year's address will be *Business and Education Partnerships: Connecting and Serving the Local Community*. Both speakers will address the benefits of strong partnerships between businesses and K-14 public education.

"In addition to the great partnership we have with the Elk Grove Unified School District, we have a lot of partnerships with businesses in the area that not only provide support to various programs on campus, but provide internships for our students," Travis said. "We take care in listening to the needs of local companies who need specific skills and can adapt our curriculum accordingly."

"We are fortunate to have partnerships with CRC, higher education and businesses," Ladd said. "These partnerships are vital to building the platforms of success for our students in the 21st century."

Travis and Ladd will also speak to the impact that the state's lack of funding is having on public education and the future of the region's workforce. CRC has already lost almost 1,000 students with the recent budget cuts and could lose more if cuts continue. Over the past three years, EGUSD has reduced its budget by 27 percent. The district is currently faced with cutting an additional \$40 million from its budget for the 2011-2012 school year.

"The community will feel the immediate impact of the state cuts to public education through the loss of jobs. In EGUSD alone, over 400 positions will be reduced by July 1. Many of these positions are held by Elk Grove residents," Ladd said. "If these cuts come to fruition, I fear that the long term consequence of cuts to public education will affect the entire state for years to come."

Over the past several years, EGUSD and CRC have partnered to provide students better opportunities to reach their goals. Most recently, the partnership has led to CRC offering culinary courses at EGUSD's new culinary arts institute at COHS. In the past several years CRC and EGUSD have partnered to allow EGUSD students to take college level courses at the CRC campus during the summer. Unfortunately, such opportunities are threatened by the state's lack of funding for public education.

The event is sponsored by the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce.

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