
New Teacher & Leadership Development welcomes two new managers



This month, New Teacher & Leadership Development (NTLD) welcomed two new administrators to its IMPACT Intern Program. Courtney Kirchman will oversee the single subject and career technical education (CTE) credential program, while Vang Thao will oversee the multiple subject credential program.

The IMPACT Intern Program partners with a consortium of districts to recruit and train interns. Hiring interns becomes a viable option when districts are unable to hire fully credentialed teachers. IMPACT is approved by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing to deliver credentials coursework. Throughout the two-year program, program-assigned practicum supervisors and district-assigned onsite mentors support

interns. This approach to teacher preparation engages interns in a rigorous teacher-training program and provides district-specific professional learning opportunities.

Courtney Kirchman most recently served the Lindsay community as a K-8 site principal for the past four years. Prior to this, she served the Central Union School District in Kings County as an elementary principal, assistant principal, and teacher. She began her career in the Hanford Elementary School District as a kindergarten teacher and a literacy coach. Kirchman brings to NTLD her passion for developing new educators and providing the needed support to ensure success for all.

Vang Thao comes to the IMPACT Intern Program from Fresno Unified School District where she most recently served as a Teacher on Special Assignment. Since 2021, Thao coordinated the Fresno Internship Credential Program, a satellite of the IMPACT Intern Program with responsibility for recruiting intern candidates, developing course sequences, and working with instructors and supervisors to cultivate highly qualified teachers. While at Fresno Unified, Thao also served as a special education teacher, instructional coach, and vice principal. In addition, she is an adjunct professor at California State University, Fresno, where she teaches preservice credential courses.

Veteran NTLD administrators continue to oversee the other credential and induction programs. Michelle French is now the program manager for the Teacher Induction Program with Rachel Silveira overseeing the iLead Program and Framework for Teaching. Kim Paz is the program manager for the Educational Specialist Program within the IMPACT Intern Program.

For more information, visit tcoe.org/NTLD.

Photo above:

~ Courtney Kirchman (left) and Vang Thao joined New Teacher & Leadership Development this month as program managers for the IMPACT Intern Program. Kirchman will oversee the single subject and CTE credential programs while Thao manages the multiple subject credential program.

Around the County

Monache High School's Ethan Achterberg places sixth at SkillsUSA Championships

Representing California, Monache High School's Ethan Achterberg placed sixth in the nation at the SkillsUSA Championships held in Atlanta, Georgia in late June. He competed in Cabinetmaking against 42 other high school competitors.

The sixth-place finish is believed to be the highest finish ever from a California student in the contest, according to Tim Newby, the lead teacher for Monache's Manufacturing and Construction Technology Academy pathway.

"It's great for Monache High School and the Porterville Unified School District," Tim Newby told the [Porterville Recorder](#). "It puts us on the map even more. Ethan set the bar very high for future years."

The contest began with a six-hour orientation that went over safety and machinery to be used on the project the first day. After the unveiling of the project, students created their cut list of parts for the project. On the second day, students had eight hours to cut and construct the project: a wooden stand with a cabinet on top that had a door and drawer with two different areas of cove moldings.

Achterberg graduated from Monache High School this past May.

During Achterberg's senior year, he qualified for nationals by placing first and earning a gold medal at the regional competition. From there, he advanced to the California State Conference held in Ontario in early April. He placed first and earned another gold medal while narrowly beating out fellow Monache senior, Marriner Christenson, who earned silver. At state, Monache also had the bronze medal winner Daniella Hernandez and fourth-place finisher Cristian Anguiano.





For more information on Achterberg, view stories from the [Porterville Recorder](#) and [ABC30](#).

Photos above:

~ Above: Monache High School's Ethan Achterberg placed sixth in the nation at the SkillsUSA Championships held in Atlanta, Georgia in late June. He competed in Cabinetmaking against 42 other high school competitors.

~ Bottom: Monache High School's Ethan Achterberg (left) works on his project

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