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Yerington and Dayton High School Students Represent Lyon County School District in Nevada's Superintendent's Advisory Group of Education

Two outstanding Lyon CSD students, Mari Basaca Fuentes of Yerington High School and Blake Palmer of Dayton High School, have been selected to serve on Nevada's Superintendent's Advisory Group of Education (NV SAGE). This prestigious position allows them to provide valuable student perspectives on educational policies and statewide initiatives!

What is NV Sage?

The Nevada Superintendent's Advisory Group of Education (NV SAGE) is a select group of students from across the state who collaborate to provide direct input on educational policies and student experiences. Members engage in discussions with education leaders, review legislative proposals, and advocate for improvements that impact Nevada schools. Their work helps shape decisions that affect students statewide, ensuring that student voices are represented in policymaking.

Both Mari and Blake exemplify leadership, dedication, and a commitment to improving education for all Nevada students. Their participation in NV SAGE not only benefits Lyon County but also contributes to the broader conversation on the future of education in the state.

Blake Palmer - Dayton High School

Blake's journey to NV SAGE also involved a competitive selection process, requiring a written application and recommendations from Lyon County School District Superintendent Tim Logan and Dayton High School Principal Julie Bumgardner. His commitment to education and leadership qualities set him apart as a strong candidate.

As an advisory board member, Blake represents both DHS and Lyon County, sharing insights on the differences between rural and urban school experiences. Recently, he and his fellow NV SAGE members have been focusing on key legislative issues, including competency-based education, licensure requirements for educators, and student representation on school boards.

“My roles for NV SAGE mostly include representing DHS and Lyon County among other Nevada students. I share opinions on similarities and differences between rural and urban areas, experiences with issues in education, and gaining solutions from discussion. Recently, with the start of Nevada’s 83rd legislative session, we have been focusing on four education bills: AB24, competency-based education; SB59, Educational personnel licensure; SB81, Department’s omnibus bill; and AB316, student trustees on each school board. We also reviewed the Statewide Plan for the Improvement of Pupils (STIP) draft, in which we gave feedback. Finally, we are to write our own testimonials for two of the above bills on NELIS, Nevada’s legislative bill tracker, and some of us will testify in Carson during the discussion of these bills.”

Blake’s passion for education is evident in his extensive involvement. He has taken multiple education courses through Western Nevada College and has completed over 75 hours of internship experience. His dedication to student advocacy ensures that Lyon County’s voice is heard at the state level.

Mari Basaca Fuentes - Yerington High School

For Mari, joining NV SAGE was an opportunity to create meaningful change. To be selected, she completed an extensive application process, answering questions about her qualifications, past contributions, and desire to make an impact in education. Once accepted, she took on an active role in reviewing proposed education bills and providing feedback on how these policies would affect students.

“As part of the Superintendent Advisory Group of Education, I have the role of bettering the education for all students. We go over bills that are trying to be put into motion, and as part of the group, I put my intake of this bill and how it will affect my peers and I. This is done so that the superintendent’s Board has the intake of students themselves.”

Mari’s passion for advocacy stems from her desire to improve her school and ensure that students have a voice in shaping their education. “There are many changes that I would like to make within my school, however, I would never be able to accomplish these goals by sitting around waiting for someone to do it for me. That is why being part of SAGE and having the opportunity to better things for the greater good is very important to me.”

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