

Oregon Migrant Education Service Center (OMESC) 2020-2021 Department Achievements



Willamette
EDUCATION SERVICE DISTRICT

The 2020-2021 Contract for the OMEESC met with quite a few challenges. COVID, fires, working from home and staff changes are a few noteworthy challenges this 2020-2021 year. A challenge has been not having a contract till May, 2021 and not be able to subgrant and changes in Deliverables expectations due to changes in leadership at the Oregon Department of Education. These are now not a problem.



The largest OMEESC achievement this year would be to have a full staffing of wonderfully talented educators. Each in their own way are outstanding and represent some of the best Migrant staff in the state and nation. During previous year we were short five staff members. During this year we have a full crew that are going the extra mile.

This year Merced Flores who was a temporary employee filling in for departed employee in the late fall, became a full time permanent employee. We joined a national Consortia of Migrant Identification and Recruitment and Merced has presented and showcased Oregon's program at the National level. Sue Cheatharn has continued with Migrant Data and implemented the new Data Program OMSIS 6.0 and Electronic Certificates Of Eligibility (COEs) doing training online during the summer of 2020. The new system needed some changes that could not be worked on since we were waiting for the OMEESC contract. Jesus Sandoval has continued in the role of Graduation Specialist and J-1 Visas. Beyond growing the Graduation Specialists around the state he has coordinated with many agencies to increase effectiveness including Willamette Promise. Luis Arias has continued as the technology specialist creating many trainings for parents in English and Spanish on accessing technology. We are improving our OMEESC website. Teresa Mora has maintained communication and functionality during COVID for the OMEESC team. Raquel Casas has increased her support with Teresa and provided translation documentation for the team.

Changes in staff have included Michelle Sandoval working now exclusively with Sue and doing trainings in Spanish. Sandra Gibson is new to the team doing 85 reinterviews as required by Federal program guidelines. She is also doing cross training with Merced and improving the OMEESC website. Naomi Alora is the new Family Engagement Specialist who has improved greatly the support going to the field. When more information was asked by parents, she dug into resources for Social Emotional support. Natalia Piar has risen to the challenge as Preschool Specialist and coordinating with ODE expectations.

The OMEESC team was incomplete last year and this year they have come together and collaborated together in many ways despite COVID and working from home.

1

There are many projects noteworthy of mention this year, but the support to Preschool Specialists has been a highlight, . In the summer of 2020, ODE with the support of Local Migrant directors chose the statewide tool to support students. The tool was created by Natalia Piar with Developmental Stages from the CDC.

Natalia not only organized the Evaluation tool, but also broke it into three tools specifically for three, four and five year old students. She worked with an advisory group to shorten the tools by 30%. She then trained the local Preschool Specialists on assessing their preschool students. In May she organized a children's concert with two time Grammy winner Martha Gómez and provided a children CD specifically made by Marta Gómez for the Oregon Migrant students. Students also received a book on Social Emotional and Building blocks. Every Preschool Specialist also will receive a kit full of books, manipulatives and resources to work with Preschool children.

2

Summer Binational Program Beyond providing 22 Mexican teachers to work with Migrant programs around the state for the Summer of 2021 virtually. With the support of Jesus Sandoval and Luis Airas, we contracted four Mexican teachers to provide a month of teaching this summer.

Every weekday morning from 9-11 instruction will be given: Monday and Wednesdays to preschool students. Tuesday and Thursdays with elementary students. On Fridays all students can participate in a cultural and art lesson. Each of the sessions is recorded and replayed from 5-7 p.m. for families to see and for future uses. The curriculum created specifically for our Migrant students is themed based lessons that includes Social Emotional, Reading and Math. Other states have asked to use our lessons. They include a weekly packet to be printed out, a list of supplies and the recorded lessons.



This provides a great option for migrant students and districts to use.

3

Family Engagement supports. With COVID and education for migrant families offering additional barriers, the work of Naomi Alora has been crucial this school year. She has been very creative as she heard from parents and the local programs and responded to their needs.

A major need continued to be use of technology and she collaborated with Luis Arias to provide basic trainings in Spanish for families to set up email, use connect to technology, etc.

Social emotional needs of students, parents and staff have led Naomi to collaborate with WESD staff, ODE staff and the Oregon Health Authority. She discovered that there were not many materials at the level of our parents or in Spanish and has worked to create and request more resources.

