

REPORT



CCLLEN

CAMPASPE COHUNA
LOCAL LEARNING & EMPLOYMENT NETWORK

2023

2023



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I am delighted to present the Chairperson's report for the Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network (CCLLEN). It has been a dynamic and rewarding year for the organisation, marked by significant achievements, challenges, and the unwavering dedication of our staff.

been the driving force behind our success. I especially congratulate Jane, who has grown enormously in the role of Executive Officer. Jane has made significant enhancements across the CCLLEN and students are seeing the benefits.

Over the past year, CCLLEN has achieved several milestones that reflect our ongoing commitment to supporting youth education, training, and employment opportunities. Through strategic partnerships with local businesses, educational institutions, and community organisations, we have been able to provide valuable learning experiences and mentorship opportunities to our youth.

I am pleased to report that our efforts to promote inclusivity and diversity within CCLLEN have yielded positive results. We have actively engaged with marginalized groups, including Indigenous communities, low socio-economic groups, and individuals with disabilities, to ensure that our programs are accessible and cater to the diverse needs of our population. This inclusivity not only enriches our organisation but also fosters a sense of belonging and empowerment among those we serve.

Synergistiq were employed to conduct a strategic review for the LLENS. This was a major component of work, and stress, over the past year. Thankfully, most of what we have worked hard to create in Campaspe Cohuna remains much the same. We look forward to increased collaboration with nearby LLENS in the future. This relationship has always been strong but the review will support further links.

VET clusters have just started to take shape with the CCLLEN being a huge part in supporting the innovation. Personally, I look forward to seeing what direction this takes in the future as it has scope to open up vast opportunities for students.

Another area I would like to highlight is the myriad of programs linked to our Youth Partnerships.

The Mates mentoring program has been instrumental in fostering meaningful connections between students and mentors, providing guidance and support crucial for personal and academic growth. Through this program, students have developed essential life skills, gained

confidence, and achieved notable improvements in their academic performance.

The Beacon program has significantly contributed to equipping students with essential work skills and preparing them for life after school. Participants have gained valuable insights into various industries, received mentorship from professionals, and successfully transitioned into further education or employment opportunities.

The Hands on Learning program has been instrumental in re-engaging disenchanted students, offering them practical, hands-on experiences that align with their interests. This approach has led to increased motivation, improved attendance, and enhanced self-esteem among participants.

These have been just a few of the amazing programs the Youth Partnerships program has delivered.

The L2P program has successfully supported students in gaining driving hours, enabling them to obtain their driver's licence. This initiative has not only provided young learners with essential driving skills but also enhanced their independence and opportunities for employment. The program's impact extends beyond road safety, contributing significantly to the personal and professional development of participants. Thanks to Graeme Hodgins for his leadership over the past 12 months. We wish Graeme all the best in retirement, as Nikki takes over the position.

I have been associated with the CCLLEN organisation for well over a decade. I have sat on many interview panels for CCLLEN EO's, project workers, office staff and trainees. I have loved being an active and founding member of the Youth Partnerships program. I have had the pleasure of witnessing first-hand the growth of Beacon leaders for many years. However, I feel it is time for me to step away as chair and board member and allow for fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm. I know I leave at a time when CCLLEN is strong and in very good hands with Jane as EO and a passionate and dedicated team around her.

In closing, I want to once again express my deepest appreciation to our staff and board members for their hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our mission. Your passion and resilience inspires us all and reaffirms the importance of our work at CCLLEN. Together, we will continue to create opportunities, empower youth, and build a brighter future for generations to come.

Paul Marshall
Chairperson



EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It has indeed been a dynamic and eventful year, marked by the introduction of numerous new programs and exciting collaborative ventures aimed at enriching opportunities for the youth within our region.

We've extended our support to local schools and students, facilitating their participation in various events

such as Careers Day Out, the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation Careers Expo, the Food & Fibre Careers Day, Tomorrow Bound, and the Avalon Air Show and once again played a leadership role in the organising of the Murray River Culinary Challenge.

I would like to acknowledge partnerships with our neighbouring LLENs on many of these events. Their willingness to collaborate has enabled us to create remarkable cross-regional opportunities that otherwise may not be available to our rural students.

One notable collaboration is the partnership between North Central LLEN, Goldfields LLEN, Central Ranges LLEN, and CCLLEN, which, with funding from Agnico Eagle Community Partnerships, culminated in the establishment of a 'Careers Explorium.' This resource serves as a valuable tool for schools supporting career education endeavours from grade 5/6 through to VCE. Funding also supported the development and evaluation of the Youth Take Over program, Local Jobs Website and will support the creation of a 'Find Your Feet' reimagined careers night set and resources.

Our ongoing collaboration with Campaspe Shire Council in organising the Youth Expo in Kyabram, supported by FReeZA and Youth Fest Funding, has been a highlight. The Expo provided students with the opportunity to engage with a diverse array of youth services and organisations.

The Campaspe Youth Partnership remains committed to delivering a range of engagement programs and activities in schools, in

collaboration with various service providers. I extend heartfelt thanks to Clubs NSW grants for their support throughout 2023, enabling us to continue providing resources and programs that specifically cater to young people, especially those who are disengaged from education.

Our L2P Program continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication of our volunteer Mentor Drivers, who play a crucial role in supporting young people on their journey to obtaining their Ps.

Participation in the Structural Review undertaken by all LLENs across Victoria promises to enhance the operational efficiency of our independent organizations, better equipping us to support the implementation of the Department of Education's Senior Secondary Reforms.

CCLLEN and the Campaspe region were fortunate to take part in a VET Transport Fund pilot program, which supported 72 students from Echuca College, Rochester Secondary College, Kyabram P-12 College, Rushworth P-12 College and Cohuna Secondary College to access VET opportunities across our region. We are pleased with the success of the pilot and eagerly anticipate the expansion of this program in 2024.

I am immensely proud of the achievements and progress made throughout the year, and I look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in empowering the youth within our community.

Finally, I extend my sincerest gratitude to our hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, and committed board members for their tireless efforts and unwavering support throughout the year.

Jane Reid
Executive Officer

WHAT IS THE CCLLEN?

The CCLLEN is a grouping of organisations and individuals interested and involved in the wellbeing, education, training and employment of young people.

Our Purpose

The predominant purpose and object of Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network is to support young people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to improve their engagement with education and training leading to the completion of Year 12 or its equivalent. Vulnerable young people include those who are indigenous, disabled, rurally isolated, socially and/or economically disadvantaged.

Campaspe Cohuna Local Learning and Employment Network will pursue this by:

- Facilitating communication and brokering partnerships between education providers, businesses, community organisations and individuals to assist young people to achieve their best;
- Providing access to opportunities for young people which broaden their experiences, expand their horizons and support their wellbeing;
- Developing, encouraging and facilitating collaborative approaches towards the planning and improved delivery of education and training to better accommodate the learning needs of vulnerable individuals;
- Promoting connections between education and training with industry and local and regional employment opportunities;
- Promoting, supporting and encouraging the provision of information, guidance and pathways planning to enable people to make well-informed employment, education and training choices.

There are 31 LLENs across Victoria. The CCLLEN's geographic boundary is inclusive of the Shire of Campaspe and Cohuna in the Gannawarra Shire.

The CCLLEN's stakeholder group encompasses education and training providers, business and industry, community organisations, and parents and families. The CCLLEN undertakes the brokering of partnerships with these stakeholders to assist with the successful transitioning of our young people through education and training into employment.



2023 COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Category 1	Schools Paul Marshall – Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School Louise Mellington – Kyabram P-12 College Anne Marie Cairns – St Joseph's College	4 Positions
Category 2	TAFE Institutes or Universities with TAFE sectors	1 Position
Category 3	Adult Community Education Organisations	1 Position
Category 4	Other education and training organisations including private registered training organisations, universities and group training companies Mahir Ozdilek – MEGT	1 Position
Category 5	Trade Unions	1 Position
Category 6	Employers/Peak employer organisations/Regional employer organisations and employment agencies Lynda Magill – Sarina Russo Apprenticeships	4 Positions
Category 7	Local Governments Jess Ibbeson – Campaspe Shire Council	2 Positions
Category 8	Other Community Agencies and organisations, Commonwealth and State Government Departments, School Focussed Youth Service, Adult, Community and Further Education Regional Councils, Regional Youth Councils, parent organisations etc Darryl Brown – Wilmot Road Primary School	2 Positions
Category 9	Koorie organisations, Peak Koorie agencies and Regional Koorie organisations	1 Position
Category 10	Community Members Emma Brentnall	1 Position
Category 11	Nominated by the Committee who shall be a Community Member or a person associated with an Organisational Member	2 Positions

OUR PEOPLE



Jane Reid | Executive Officer

Jane commenced with CCLLEN in July 2019. Jane has worked in employment services, public relations and as a trainer and assessor, joining CCLLEN as a Project Officer, coordinating for the Beacon Real Futures Program and Campaspe Youth Partnerships. In December 2022, Jane was appointed to the role of Executive Officer.

Jacq Campbell | School to Work Coordinator

Jacq has a strong background in hospitality, event management and training. Jacq commenced with CCLLEN in 2011 working on the VET in Schools Excellence Awards and the Murray River Culinary Challenge. In 2014 Jacq became a full-time employee taking on the Structured Workplace Learning Coordinator role, now the School to Work program.



Cath Elms | Project Officer | Beacon Coordinator

Having commenced with CCLLEN in January 2023, Cath has worked extensively with our 5 schools as the Real Futures Project Manager for the Echuca Moama Beacon Foundation. Cath has also worked on the School to Work & Campaspe Youth Partnerships programs, providing careers workshops & support for students, together with facilitating the CYP program working collaboratively with its members to support vulnerable young people aged 10-18 years.

Nikki Harris | Project Support Officer

Nikki commenced at CCLLEN in January 2022 moving to the region from Melbourne. With her project administration experience, Nikki provides administrative support across all projects including the L2P and Beacon programs and is responsible for the Echuca and Kyabram Youth Expos.



Graeme Hodgins | L2P Coordinator

Graeme joined us in December 2022 as the new L2P Coordinator, heading up the L2P program. As a former Principal, Graeme brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in working with young people and community to the role. Graeme will liaise with learner drivers and match them with a suitable mentor to assist them to gain the necessary hours required for their licence.

Debbie Rogerson | Project Officer

Debbie was appointed as Project Officer for the Youth Take Over program in May 2023. Having worked for the Department of Education for the past 34 years as a Business Manager, Debbie's communication and organisation skills have enabled the successful launch of the first YTO project in Echuca.



Amanda Mitchell | Casual Project Administration and Support

Throughout 2023, Amanda has provided administrative and project support across a number of CCLLEN events and activities. Amanda is a Fairley Leadership Program graduate who is passionate about supporting and improving the lives of underprivileged and minority groups.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Our Vision Statement

All young people are supported to engage with education to reach their full potential and become successful contributors to their community.

Our Mission Statement

We facilitate communication and partnerships between education providers, businesses, community organisations and individuals to assist young people to achieve their best.

This enables us to provide access to opportunities for young people which broaden their experiences, expand their horizons and support their wellbeing.

Our Objectives

- Connect with our stakeholders
- Develop partnerships
- Be inclusive
- Communicate clearly
- Share research and data
- Encourage participation
- Support wellbeing



SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH INDUSTRY

564 
Students have participated in Employability Skills and Interview Preparation workshops in 2023 at schools across the Campaspe Cohuna Region.

311 
School Friendly Businesses in the Campaspe Cohuna region, promoting and enhancing the links between schools, parents and the business community.

744 
Students (approximately) attended LLEN supported careers events and industry tours in 2023.

391 
Students participated in mock interviews in 2023. Mock interviews are conducted by local business people to give students an idea of what a real job interview is like.

148 
New Structured Workplace Learning opportunities were advertised on the portal during 2023, in addition to previously listed opportunities.

163 
Active Host Employers on the portal offering SWL and Work Experience placements for students.

11 
Learner Drivers in the L2P Program graduated from the program and gained their driver licence.

27 
Careers events were organised by CCLLEN and attended by 1,518 students.

CAMPASPE INDUSTRY TOURS

In May, CCLLEN along with the Industry Training Hub and Community Vibe, organised Industry Tours in Campaspe Shire, Victoria.

These tours aimed to give Year 10, 11, and 12 students valuable insights into various industries. Students visited employers and businesses in sectors like Engineering, Early Childhood Education and Care, Hospitality and Retail, Agriculture, Health Care & Social Assistance, Food Processing, and Building and Construction.

Feedback from students showed that the visits were relevant to their career interests and provided a better understanding of required skills and qualifications.



Teachers also recognised the tours' value in preparing students for their future careers. Businesses appreciated the opportunity to showcase their work environments and engage with students. Industry professionals praised the well-organised tours and engaged behavior.

commended the students for their respectful and engaged behavior.



Special thanks to our Industry Partners:

Furphy's
Sessions Builders
Cantech Engineering
GoTAFE Shepparton
Kyabram General Engineering
Bendigo TAFE Echuca
Moama RSL
MBM Designs
American Hotel
Metricon
Rich River Golf Club

Campaspe Kitchens
Echuca Regional Health
Plunkett Orchards
Kyabram District Health Service
Flavorite
Community Living & Respite Services
Tyler's Dairy Farm
Echuca East Primary School
SLTEC Fertilisers
Journey Early Learning

Reid Stockfeeds
Shine Bright Echuca South Kindergarten
Coolabah Turf
Rochester & District Childcare Centre
Byford Equipment
Campaspe Community Children's Centre
Foodmach
Riva Fab



CAMPASPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS



Working collaboratively to support vulnerable young people aged 10-18 years to:

- Improve engagement with education and training leading to the completion of Year 12 or equivalent.
- Reduce escalation of problems for individual young people.



VALUES

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Resilience
- Community
- Care

Full MoU Members

- Anglicare Victoria
- Bendigo TAFE
- Campaspe Cohuna LLEN
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Department of Education & Training
- Department of Human Services: Centrelink
- Echuca College
- Echuca Neighbourhood House
- Echuca Regional Health
- Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School
- Kyabram Community & Learning Centre
- Kyabram P-12 College
- River City Christian College
- Rochester Secondary College
- Rushworth P-12 College
- Save the Children - Hands on Learning Program
- St Augustine's College
- St Joseph's College

Affiliate Members

- Community Living and Respite Services
- Kyabram District Health Services
- School Focused Youth Services
- Victoria Police

Vision Statement

All young people have real access to learning opportunities, integrated services and community inclusion.

Mission Statement

Partnering to facilitate, the provision of an effective accessible and integrated service delivery and responsive learning opportunities for vulnerable young people.

Integrated Service Directory

The Continuum of Need is an online framework resource on services available in Campaspe. At risk students can be mapped to develop a shared support plan with a holistic approach.

Re-engagement Programs

A range of programs are made available to our schools to cater for different students' interests and abilities, to help them get back on track with their education. These programs aim for the disengaged young people to re-engage with their learning, improve social, personal skills and connect with the school and wider community.

Junior Park Rangers

A primary based program which aims to encourage engagement, resilience and confidence, as an early intervention strategy for disengagement. Through project-based learning, students learn responsibility, teamwork, environmental sustainability and how to care for animals.

MATES

A youth mentoring program which matches a young person (Mentee) with a volunteer (Mentor) from the local community. They meet weekly during school terms at the school, which develops a structured and trusting relationship. Mentors encourage and reinforce positive behaviour, enhance self-confidence and self-worth.

I CAN Network

A combined school secondary mentoring program provides fortnightly group mentoring to students on the Autism Spectrum. It focuses on teamwork, personal strengths, communication, managing stress and building an 'I CAN' attitude. The Imagination Club is a primary based program for students who are Autistic, or who have learning differences or experience social anxiety. It aims to develop self-acceptance, belonging, optimism and confidence. Programs are facilitated by an I CAN Network Leader and Mentor, at least one of whom is on the Autism Spectrum.

Murray Life Adventures

6-week program with one day a week of outdoorsy and challenging type activities with a focus on safety, fun and learning with a slow build on the concepts of team building and leadership with the main aim to assist to re-engage the students to education and teamwork in a fun and outdoors setting.

Hands On Learning

Hands on Learning (HoL) is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn, helping students build confidence, engage and achieve at school. Students thrive developing the creativity, self-discipline and interpersonal skills vital for the 21st Century workforce. Students attend one day a week fostering teamwork and leadership. Students and artisan-teachers share meals and work together on meaningful projects that benefit the school and local community.

CAMPASPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS 2023

22



Organisations are members of Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

8



Schools involved in Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

135



Young people participated in Campaspe Youth Partnerships programs over the year.

15



Students engaged in Murray Life Adventures , a program based on outdoorsy and challenging type activities with a focus on safety, fun and learning to assist to re-engage the students to education and teamwork in a fun outdoor setting.

8



Students participated in the MATES Mentoring Program with a mentor from the community.

12



Students participated in an animal based programs at Billabong Ranch and Kyabram Fauna Park.

100



Students participated in the Hands on Learning program that caters to the different ways young people learn, helping students build confidence, engage and achieve at school.

182

INDIRECT PROGRAMS

Students participated in indirect programs such as the teenage fitness program Kyfit ,together with various Leadership Programs.



CAMPASPE YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout the course of 2023, 135 young people engaged with at least one of the suite of programs supported by Campaspe Youth Partnerships.

All partners continued their involvement and commitment to supporting the Partnerships and attending meetings. The Partnerships has a sound track record of collaboration and sharing. Schools are willing to work together, across sectors, on a variety of projects, both within and beyond the Partnerships projects. Other organisations seek to work with the Partnerships as an effective way to reach young people across the shire. The Partnerships is a key conduit for new providers and staff to connect to decision makers. The Vic Health Partnership Tool is used regularly to measure the strength of the Partnerships.

Through the Partnerships young people have access to a range of engagement programs that can inspire and support them, while improving teamwork, problem solving and communication skills. Some programs are delivered in school and some are external.

During 2023 Hands on Learning showed substantial growth, with participating schools reporting improved engagement and attendance from students. Students build, make or repair

items for others, while working on their own focus plans for personal development and improvement.

Murray Life Adventures provides challenging activities in an outdoor environment beside the Murray River. Students from St Joseph's College attended the program in Term 1, working on communication, problem solving, peer relationships and teamwork.

The Junior Park Rangers program saw a change with Kyabram Fauna Park becoming part of Zoos Victoria at the end of 2022. Due to this transition, the JPR program was unable to run in Semester 1, 2023 however with the hard work of the park's Education Coordinator, Izzy Paholek, we were delighted to be able to run the program in Semester 2.

The Celebration Day was held on Monday 23 October where young Rangers showed off their completed projects and learnings to their families. Throughout the day, students with their families in tow, had the opportunity to explore various parts of the park and meet many of the wildlife that inhabit there.



CAMPASPE CAREERS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING NETWORK

The Campaspe Careers Network is a group consisting of dedicated and passionate Careers teachers from all our Regional secondary schools.



The Careers teachers' role includes assisting students to find quality work placements for their students across a range of Vocations.

CCLLEN supports the careers network by arranging venues and guest speakers, maintaining distribution lists, providing banking, minutes and professional development certificates.

Network meetings, held twice per term, provide an opportunity for school careers practitioners to share information and resources, promote best practice and connect with other schools, training providers, business and industry.

During 2023 we continued meeting on virtual platforms and when we could, added the hybrid style, some face to face while others joined us across teams.

As almost all of the universities and other training and educational providers are city based or out of region, not all meetings were attended in a regular year. With the advantage of meetings on virtual platforms, everyone could attend and did so, sharing information to the group prior to each meeting so there was time for the careers practitioners to gather questions and field ideas. This was an enormous advantage to the careers network with really strong connections created with Monash University, Federation University, La Trobe, Melbourne University, Charles Sturt to name a few.

The network was also joined each meeting by representatives from the Department of Education and Training, MEGT, Sarina Russo, William Angliss, Hotel School, JMC Academy, Collarts and the Photography College.

STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING



Local Learning and Employment Networks (LLENs) across Victoria are funded to increase access to appropriate SWL placements for students undertaking VET as part of their senior secondary certificate.

Structured Workplace Learning provides students with the opportunity to integrate practical on-the-job experience and learnings in industry with nationally recognised VET. This is undertaken as part of either the VCE or the VCAL, VCE Industry and Enterprise or VCAL units. It provides enhanced skill development, practical application of industry knowledge, assessment of units of competency, achievement of some learning outcomes for VCE studies or VCAL units and enhanced employment opportunities.

One of the principles of Quality SWL is that it "is of sufficient duration and depth to enable students to acquire a reasonable understanding

of the enterprise/industry to be able to demonstrate competence according to industry standards".

The State Government, with the assistance of the LLENs, has developed a Statewide Portal for listing placement opportunities across all vocations. The portal is available for all schools, students, parents and employers to use.

Schools can consume placements off the portal which will then generate all the correct forms. Businesses can manage student placements through the portal and readily align them with capacity to host students in the workplace.



KYABRAM INDUSTRY DAY

One hundred and thirteen Year 9 students from St Augustine's College, Kyabram P-12 College and Rushworth P-12 College swarmed into the Brigidine Centre at St Augustine's College to hear personal stories of career journeys from 24 workshop presentations.

Local industries and services gathered to present the workshops to students who had been surveyed to choose their top four career choices. Students rotated through their chosen presentations with the opportunity to ask questions and enjoy some great interactive moments in a number of the workshops.

This year, we welcomed new presenters offering workshops in Signwriting, Real Estate, Aged Care, Baking, Diesel Mechanics, Engineering, Farming for the Future, Fitness and Music, Dance & Performing Arts.

Guest speaker Jayden Howe from headspace spoke about his career journey and the many varied roles he has had from carpentry through to working with youth at headspace. Jayden is always open to learning new things and spoke about his hopes to become a pilot in the future.

His message was one of dreaming big and working hard towards your goals and that it is ok to change your mind as you go along. Jayden is passionate about being a role model in the community and connecting with young people that he can help on their way to adulthood.

Feedback from students included the comments "I liked how informative the workshops were and the activities included with each workshop", "I liked to see all the opportunities you have and becoming more open minded about it", "I learnt a lot and have an understanding of what I want to do".

Kyabram Bakery provided a great morning tea "grab and go" bag with the CCLLEN providing fresh fruit, tea and coffee for our presenters.

ROCHESTER YEAR 8 CAREERS EXPLORATION DAY

The careers team at Rochester Secondary School realised a need for their year 8 cohort to begin thinking about the opportunities that were beyond the school gates.

The CCLLEN was approached to assist in coordinating 67 students and half a dozen teachers out into the town of Rochester.

The brief was twofold; have a wide range of industries for the students to engage in and to also see, firsthand, that their town, so ravaged by floods a year ago, is thriving and back doing business.

The CCLLEN canvassed over 20 local businesses to check the capacity to have student groups visit. There was a great reaction from most, those who couldn't were disappointed that they would miss out this round but happy to "be on the books" for tours in 2024. The diversity of industries included a variety of retail operators, agriculture and environment, medical, hospitality, early years education, automotive, hair and beauty.

The students were provided with "Passports" with each of the businesses they were visiting listed.

There was room for the students to pop down answers to questions such as "what did you hear or learn about? Does this business offer work experience? They could also add to a list of things they found interesting.

The students were divided into four groups, two walking and two in buses to outer lying businesses enjoying a full morning with each group spending time at 6 different industries.

The students regrouped to exchange observations and learnings from the different industries they had visited.

Feedback from the students was very positive. Favorites - the welding businesses,

dentist, making playdough and Ag Warehouse. Improvements for future versions - go for the whole day, visit different businesses.

This will be a fine template for implementation in 2024.



ECHUCA TWIN RIVERS SPECIALIST SCHOOL CAREERS WEEK

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School students ventured out into the twin towns of Echuca and Moama for a weeklong event with students visiting a different industry every day for approximately 90 minutes. The student groups rotated through a total of 5 industries.

Approximately 28 students from Years 10/11/12 with 9 staff went in different directions every morning.

Echuca West Woolworths - Those visiting the Echuca West Woolworths walked the few minutes from school to be met by store manager Meg Savage. We all learnt how Woolworths stores operate, their commitment to sustainability and the amazing blue tooth technology that keeps things like shelf price dockets updated. Aisle 7 was left a little messy overnight so the students could learn to "face up" products on the shelves.

We Are Vivid - Vivid works with adults who have an intellectual disability offering flexible support plans for individual needs. There are several Vivid sites around town offering different programs, including supported employment opportunities. Students enjoyed car detailing, arts and craft, gardening, and work crew activities.

Moama RSL - One of our local Clubs, the Moama RSL, offered a great tour of their venue including

the operation of their bar and café and students learnt how to carry plates in the bistro.

Community Living and Respite Services - Having established two social enterprises, the Murray River Tea Rooms and Recyclability, CLRS promote

the inclusion of people with disability in the community and provide valuable opportunities resulting in a strong sense of accomplishment. Students learnt here that they could gain skills, experience and confidence, opening future employment opportunities.

Echuca Discoveries - Laundry Mates is a social enterprise offered by Echuca Discoveries where individuals can learn the skills in the laundry industry. Contracts are gained from local motels, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, hairdressers, and resorts. This is a vibrant business and the students found it great fun with music pumping while they helped fold and bag clean towels for a contract.

It has been a busy and rewarding week for students, staff, and our local businesses, opening ideas and opportunities for all involved.



AVALON AIRSHOW

On Friday 3 March a total of 31 students from Echuca College, Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School, St Joseph's College and Kyabram P-12 College attended the Avalon Air Show.

The Campaspe Cohuna LLEN assisted schools by providing transportation by bus to and from the event. The Airshow welcomes patrons to a four-day, action-packed public spectacle with breathtaking flying displays and an amazing array of static aircraft to view up close. The Airshow is the biggest aviation, aerospace and defence exposition in the southern hemisphere.

This year, the Aerospace Student Professional (ASP) Program was launched. The ASP program



is the tertiary education element of Careers & Skills and invites students in their final years of professional study to approach and interact with defence industry during the dedicated trade days of AVALON 2023. Students of all ages can connect with the aviation and aerospace industries, promoting careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). The program is especially important given the critical need for skilled workers across the aviation industry.

FOOD AND FIBRE CAREERS DAY

Our Food and Fibre Careers Day is the largest in Victoria, with over 400 students attending in May.

LLEN's, universities, TAFE's, training organisations and industry bodies work together to organise the Food & Fibre Careers Day at the Dookie Campus of the University of Melbourne.

Twenty-two different workshops were offered with many filling to capacity during the



registration process. Workshops included genetics, sheep, hydroponics, veterinary technology, climate challenges, tractors, technology, dairy, agribusiness, equine, beef, indigenous foods, environmental science, pastures, sweet science, pigs, drones and viticulture. This provided a wide range of aspects of Food & Fibre production.

Lunch was provided and an ag relay race was held during the break, with students competing in teams for prizes, sashes and a trophy for the overall winning school. The race consisted of ag related activities in a relay, which was a lot of fun.

Feedback from students showed a large increase in the number now interested in a career in Food & Fibre. They enjoyed the hands-on activities and learning new things. They also appreciated the variety of workshops on offer.



L2P LEARNER DRIVER PROGRAM

For more than 12 years, the Campaspe L2P Mentor Driver Program has assisted hundreds of young people obtain enough learner driver hours to apply to gain their probationary licence. This year, 11 learner drivers in the Campaspe Program successfully gained their driver licence.

The TAC L2P Program assists disadvantaged Victorian learner drivers aged 16 to 21 with little to no access to a supervising driver or vehicle to gain the 120 hours driving experience required to apply for a probationary licence.

If the young person has a current learner permit, meets the criteria, and is accepted into the program, the TAC L2P Program matches learners with a fully licensed volunteer driver.

Learners participating in the program have access to up to seven free driving lessons throughout the program with a professional instructor.

This helps learners build their skills before getting on the road with a volunteer mentor and continue progressing through the four stages of the Graduated Licensing System.

The program focuses on helping young people become safe, confident drivers, in an effort to reduce Victoria's road toll. It also provides an opportunity for young people to interact with positive adult role models, gain confidence and move towards social independence.

Learner Jack Synott-Gass was paired with seasoned mentor Terry James and towards the end of their L2P journey, the topic arose of "what's next?" for Jack. Jack expressed his desire to work in the automotive industry but was uncertain about the path to pursue. Leveraging his expertise, Terry kindly offered to assist Jack with his application letter and resume.

During their next drive, Terry proposed the idea of visiting various workplaces in Echuca and personally delivering Jack's resume. Echuca Toyota was one of the early stops on their list, and to their surprise, not only did the dealership accept Jack's resume, but they also requested a brief meeting. The outcome was life-altering for Jack, securing an apprenticeship.

For Jack, enrolling in the L2P program marked a turning point, providing him with a driver's licence, employment and the belief that someone beyond his family had faith in his abilities.



VIC VICE

VIC VICE is a cutting-edge virtual reality platform that offers students in Victorian classrooms a chance to experience various workplaces in a fully immersive, interactive and multi-sensory way.

By slipping on a headset, students embark on an immersive journey through a virtual world filled with both 360-degree videos of different industries and digital simulations of real-life workplace activities. Students are transported to the heart of real-life industries where they can witness the 'on the job' action as it unfolds. Within each video, students can actively engage with their virtual surroundings, immersing themselves in the experience through virtual touchpoints and interactions.

Thanks to the feeling of presence VR provides, students can learn about their potential future by living it. In a multi-sensory experience, it's easy to forget that VR experiences aren't real.

As students look around a complete virtual replica of different career 'worlds', the visceral reactions to what they are experiencing are designed to build a sense of inspiration throughout their exploration.

Aligned with the Victorian Curriculum, VIC VICE supports career awareness and aspiration, unlocking new experiences and opportunities



for students. The VR platform also considers the findings of the Firth Review and is designed to engage students in their middle years. With 360-degree video and video-game style simulations, VIC VICE provides a more accessible alternative to traditional work experience and industry tours and is a safer option during times like the COVID-19 pandemic.

Industry exposure is important for young people to make informed choices about their subjects and pathways. It can, however, be difficult for many young people to get. This can be because employers do not have the resources to provide experiences to all young people in the region or young people live a long way away from workplaces of interest. Virtual Reality solves these problems.

VIC VICE is a free, age appropriate, non-gendered, accessible addition to careers education, available to every school in Victoria.



ECHUCA COLLEGE WINS MURRAY RIVER CULINARY CHALLENGE

The home team of Kate Durrant and Lochie Patience from Echuca College (pictured with their Trainer Rick Smolenaars) were winners in a tight field.

The coveted Murray River Culinary Challenge trophy, a piece of highly polished red gum sourced from the Koondrook Forest, is now residing with the reigning champions at Echuca College for a second year in a row.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge has been coordinated by three LLEN's across their regions. Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, Goulburn Murray LLEN and Murray Mallee LLEN met at GO TAFE Shepparton Campus with their respective teams to 'cook off' in the Grand Final, the last leg of the challenge.

The Murray River Culinary Challenge is a three-tiered competition. At the school level, students compete individually to vie for a spot in the Regional Final. The two top scoring students from each school are paired and compete as a team in the Regional Final with the top scoring team then progressing to the Grand Final. Menus in each level of the competition become progressively more difficult and are designed for students to be able to demonstrate the skills learnt during their hospitality training.

Teams from Echuca College, Notre Dame College and St. Mary McKillop College arrived in well-presented uniforms with tightly written workflow plans. Each team had 2.5 hours to prepare, cook and present a 3-course menu of smoked trout salad, herb crusted lamb rack and a chocolate fondant cake, to a waiting judging panel. The industry judges were looking for consistency and flavour and were certainly impressed with the creative presentation from the students.

A big thank you to our Industry judges; Kristofer Bech Howley - Milestone Cafe & Bistro, Rebecca Hart - Boo's Place Cafe & Provedore and George Santos - Moama Bowling Club, for their passion and commitment to the hospitality industry and our young people. Moama Bowling Club has been a long-term sponsor of the Murray River Culinary Challenge in the Campaspe region, and we thank them for their continued generosity and support.



SCHOOL FRIENDLY BUSINESSES



The CCLLEN aims to help schools and businesses work together.

There are many ways businesses can be 'School Friendly'. We want to recognise those businesses already interacting with schools and encourage more businesses to become involved.

School Friendly Businesses support their communities and can help improve education and transition outcomes for young people in a whole of community approach.

Across the CCLLEN region 311 businesses and 34 schools are involved. School Friendly Businesses participate in mock interviews, careers events, work placements and sponsorship. They also receive School Friendly Business calendars every six months.



INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS



Students across our schools were preparing for their upcoming Mock Interviews.

Students are required to submit a resume and application letter in response to a job advertisement and are then interviewed by a local business or community member. Feedback is part of this process and is very valuable.

To better prepare, students participate in a highly interactive 75 minute session that offers tips on resumes and application letter writing. A challenging tower building activity using only spaghetti and marshmallows is a group activity that helps the students put into practice the Employability Skills they had heard about that day, including team work and problem solving.

Students pair up to practice questions they may get asked by an interviewer and learn the importance of first impressions.

A workbook has been created for the students with hints, tips and checklists and tasks that will help them reflect on new found skills.

YOUTH EXPO

On 14 September, over 600 Year 8-10 students from Kyabram P-12 College, St Augustine's College, Rochester Secondary College and Rushworth P-12 College attended Kyabram's very first Youth Expo with over 30 stalls on display.

A wide range of social groups, sporting clubs, businesses, organisations and health services were on exhibit.

The expo was a collaboration between CCLLEN, Campaspe Shire Council and participating schools using FReeZA and Youth Fest funding from the Victorian government.

The expo provided a space for local organisations, community groups and clubs to present opportunities for young people to get involved in their community or to become part of a supportive group environment. Hobbies and interests such as bowls, golf, fitness and theatre were exhibited, as were volunteer groups such as the SES and library.

Student representatives from each of the attending schools were selected to form a committee, participating in the creation of this event, putting forward ideas for the exhibits and other activities. Meeting weekly in the weeks

prior to the event, the students took it in turns to chair the meetings, providing an agenda and taking minutes.



The expo aims to connect young people to sports, hobbies, activities, clubs and services available to them locally.

Some feedback received from the students:

"I liked how it was something different compared to what we normally do and we got to do different activities. Thank you for doing so much work for us to have this day."

"It was a tonne of fun and I would encourage others to attend next time."

"It was good to be able to talk to new people and get a better understanding of things we could do to get a stable job in the future or what we could do to be able to have a healthy mindset and where we could go for help."



YOUTH TAKE OVER – RALLY AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE SQUAD

The Youth Take Over "Rally an Environmental Science Squad" project is a group-based work experience program, delivered by the Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and sponsored by the Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program.



With support from the Victorian Government through the Environmental Volunteering New Growth Project, six young people from the Echuca region were selected to take part in this program to learn about Citizen Science and how young people can do their part to help protect rivers, wetlands, swamps, and lakes in our region.

Meeting weekly for ten weeks and collaborating with the North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA), the group collected data on youth volunteering and made recommendations for change to the NCCMA. Recommendations included offering targeted and flexible delivery methods that made the program more accessible to young people, ensuring marketing materials are youth-friendly and publicly showcasing the impact and efforts of young volunteers. In doing so, they

helped to create a volunteer program that is for young people, by young people.

The launch event was held at Echuca Neighbourhood House to showcase the results of the project to the wider community. This event was attended by representatives from Agnico Eagle Community Partnership Program, North Central Catchment Management Authority, Campaspe Shire Council, The Nationals Party and CCLLEN.

Thanks to funding from the Victorian Government's Loddon Mallee Youth Futures Project,

two of the interns continued to work with NCCMA to implement some of their recommendations. Working collaboratively, they designed and hosted a youth-targeted Bat BioBlitz as part of the Great Southern BioBlitz, an international Citizen Science event which took place in November.



WET TRADES

"Supporting Skills for the Future" was an 8-week pilot program that explored the in-demand trades across the construction industry in a bid to address local skills shortages.

The Supporting Skills for the Future project incorporated class and face to face delivery including accredited and non-accredited units in the suite of trades called Wet Trades.

The skills-based program was designed to provide exposure to different trades in the construction industry that were experiencing significant skills shortages. Bricklaying, plastering, painting and tiling are "wet trades" that are critical in every sector of the construction industry that young people may not have been aware of or considered.

Students attended one day per week, completing practical based activities with trainers across the construction streams. Students hung plasterboard and learnt the fundamentals of tiling through laying and grouting subway tiles. They prepared surfaces for painting, learnt line designs, brush work, cutting in and rolling. Whilst building a brick pier, students learnt troweling and levelling techniques.



The program incorporated key skill sets including the 'Prepare to work safely in the construction industry/CI - White Card' and industry presentations and tours. Students visited building sites to explore and see construction firsthand and to hear from professionals working in these trades.

The graduation ceremony was well attended by students, trainers, and local industry.

Post program, students have expressed interest in pursuing work placement/work trial opportunities.

The program was a collaboration between Bendigo TAFE, Campaspe Cohuna LLEN and Industry Training Hub Shepparton and was funded by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS REFORM - VET TRANSPORT FUND AND VET CLUSTER

The VET Transport Fund assists state government's secondary schools to provide their students with access to Vocational Education and Training Delivered to Secondary School Students (VDSS) programs.



The funding addresses barriers to access by providing schools with travel solutions that are coordinated and fit-for-purpose to support increased VDSS access and greater choice for senior secondary students.

The LLEN was identified as the most appropriate choice to coordinate this funding, given our strong connection with our schools.

Through a process of place-based-planning with schools, the Department identified specific clusters of schools to pilot the program. These schools had barriers to accessing VDSS that could be overcome with additional transport support. The transport fund enables the LLEN to offer additional transport support to overcome these barriers.

The transport fund can be used for:

- Hiring a bus from a transport company
- Hiring a taxi if no other suitable travel options are viable
- Using a school bus and paying for fuel and/or a driver
- A school staff member driving a car owned by the staff member or by the school
- Compensating a parent for fuel when using a vehicle owned by a parent
- Subsidising a student for public transport costs

- Paying for a WWCC for adult on transport to supervise children
- Catholic/Independent schools that fall on the route of funded transport
- Transporting students from a VET provider back to school or central location
- Transporting ES staff to accompany students on transport where required
- Transporting a VET trainer to students at a given location (school, RTO etc.)

The role of the LLEN:

- Liaise with schools/JSPMs and clusters to determine transport solutions
- Utilise the funding to implement transport solutions (e.g. organise a bus)
- Work with transport operators
- Provide reporting information
- Where required, request additional funding to fund transport solutions beyond a cluster's capped amount
- Populate their cluster/s Delivery Model for planning transport solutions

The LLEN provided sponsorship for VET Cluster Shirts for first year students. The shirts create a sense of inclusivity and are a visual marker of belonging to the VET Cluster group, regardless of which school the student is from and contributes to a feel of cohesion within the group.

VET CHAMPIONS

The VET Champions initiative showcases high-achieving Victorians who have risen to success through a vocational education and training (VET) pathway. The Champions are available for schools and LLENs to book to speak at careers events.

The Department of Education asked LLENs to nominate potential Champions for the program.

CCLLEN nominated Kelly Shotton of Foodmach as a VET Champion and she was one of the first to be announced by Education Minister James Merlino. Kelly immediately received requests to speak at events.

CCLLEN also nominated Jack Trewick, farming apprentice at Cramlington Park

and he was in the second group of Champions announced. Kelly and Jack already have experience talking to students for Beacon and CCLLEN, and were filmed for the Careers Video Showcase. Jack is a two-time winner of School Based Apprentice of the Year in our VET Awards of 2017 and 2018.

Both Kelly and Jack are featured on the VET Champions website at <https://www.vic.gov.au/vet-champions>.



MENTAL HEALTH



CCLLEN is an active member of the Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network.

The Network created an information sheet on Keeping Mentally Well. CCLLEN distributed this to schools for use in staff rooms and when talking to families.

CCLLEN is a member of the Executive Group for the Campaspe Schools and Agencies Wellbeing Network. The network held face to face meetings and via regular emails to members, provided information on resources and professional development opportunities.



CONTINUUM OF NEED

The Continuum of Need is a tool for mapping a young person on a continuum to determine their level of need against a wide range of domains that support their health, wellbeing and development.

CCLLEN maintains and regularly adds to a directory of services that is hyper-linked to the Continuum of Need mapping tool.

Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School has mapped all of their students using the tool, and found it very helpful in identifying issues and prioritising assistance.

Other schools are investigating using the tool, and requesting assistance with the process. CCLLEN and Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School provided further information and advice. School Focused Youth Service offered funding to cover teacher release to work on mapping students.



ECHUCA MOAMA BEACON FOUNDATION

This year has been busy with lots of events and programs. It's been great to have our sponsors and supporters back in our schools. We've enjoyed working together on exciting events and programs that have helped our students grow and learn.

Leadership Program

Beacon Leaders

Twenty students were selected to represent our five Beacon schools, with six Year 9 students from Echuca College, four Year 9 students from Moama Anglican Grammar, eight Year 10s from St Joseph's College Echuca, one from Echuca Twin Rivers Secondary School and one student from River City Christian College.

Leadership Development Day – 17 February

New Beacon Project Manager Cath Elms was as full of nervous excitement as the new leaders coming into leadership day.

Leadership day is all about getting to know one another, and to prepare our new leaders for their role as ambassadors for the Beacon program.

Activities and tasks centred around developing communication and teamwork skills and gaining an insight into their own personal strengths and attributes, assisting our Leaders to not only form a bond but to prepare them for their first major event - the Beacon Business Breakfast.

Leaders demonstrated a real willingness to challenge themselves and begin being Ambassadors for Beacon and role models to their peers and school community. They should all be very proud of themselves and the way they represent the EMBF.



Beacon Leaders



Beacon Business Breakfast

Community Events

Business Breakfast – 30 March

We kicked off the year with our first event, our annual Business Breakfast, uniting sponsors, supporters, and schools at the beautiful Radcliffe's restaurant. Our newly appointed leaders warmly hosted the event, welcoming esteemed guests including Campaspe Shire Mayor Rob Amos and Beacon Board Chair Sue Turner, who graciously presented them with their badges.

The morning was enriched by insights from Alyssa Morphet, representing the student leaders of last year, and Lorelle Pearse, the dedicated Beacon Coordinator from Echuca College, offering perspectives from the educational front.

Heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who attended and for their support of our program this year. Your contributions are deeply valued,

and we look forward to continuing our journey together!

Fundraiser

We held a BBQ at Bunnings Echuca, thank you to Bunnings for their support. The weather was quite cool and windy but that only encouraged shopper's appetites for a sausage in bread. It was a very busy day, and all involved had fun.



Leadership Day

Real Futures Program

Careers Expo

The Careers Expo marks the beginning of our in-school Beacon Foundation events for the year, designed to guide students in the Real Futures program towards exploring future career paths.

Over 420 enthusiastic students gathered at the Rich River Golf Club to engage in four

insightful industry workshops, spanning from careers in the Army to Allied Health.

What makes this event truly special is the involvement of predominantly local presenters, offering our students a unique opportunity to connect and discover the diverse career possibilities within our region.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the nearly 100 individuals who generously volunteered their time and expertise to make this event a success, demonstrating their unwavering support for our young people.

A big thank you to the Rich River Golf Club for graciously hosting us and providing a conducive space for our students to explore their potential!

Employability Skills & Interview Techniques

Teaming up with Campaspe Cohuna LLEN, we offer Employability Skills and Interview Techniques training to Year 9 and 10 students across all five Beacon schools.

This hands-on training is designed to equip students with essential interview preparation and insider tips as they gear up for Mock Interviews.

Mock Interviews

Arguably one of the most impactful components of the Real Futures program is Mock Interviews.

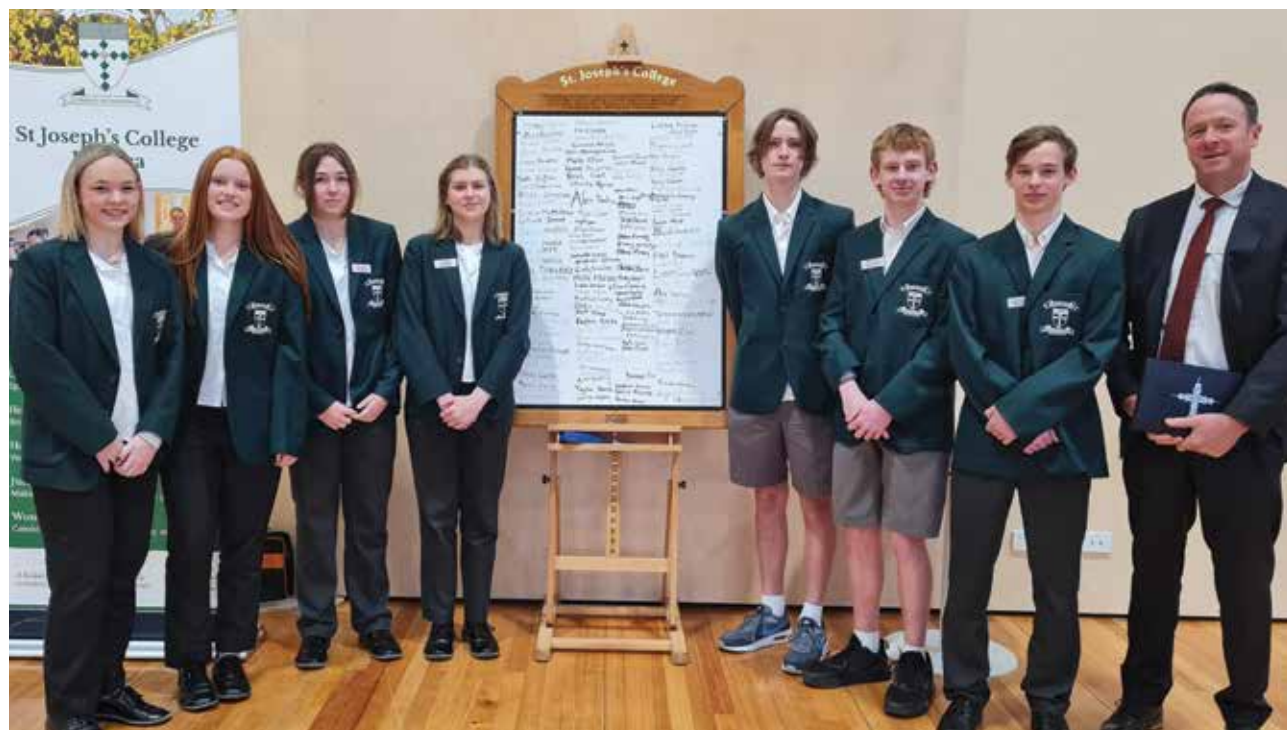
These practice interviews occur across all schools throughout the year. It's the responsibility of our Beacon Leaders to ensure students are punctual and that guest interviewers have all they need.

Feedback from students has been overwhelmingly positive, especially for those experiencing their first formal interview. While many initially feel nervous, they often leave feeling empowered with valuable advice and insights.

Each student receives a feedback sheet from



Beacon Careers Expo



Pathways Pledge Ceremony

their interviewer, assessing their resume, cover letter, and interview performance, along with a glimpse of whether they would be considered for a job.

We're incredibly grateful for our extensive team of volunteer interviewers whose dedication and support make this program possible.

Pathways Pledge Ceremony

The Pathways Pledge Ceremony, held at Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School on August 15, drew nearly 450 attendees.

Students from all five Beacon schools, alongside sponsors, supporters, and community members, gathered to celebrate the Real Futures program.



AGM

Our keynote speaker, Jason McCurry, shared his inspiring journey from growing up in Rochester to pursuing higher education in Melbourne, despite facing challenges with Tourette's Syndrome and OCD. He now serves as the Senior Youth Programs Coordinator at Children and Young People with Disability Australia (CYDA), a role close to his heart.

The Pathways Pledge signifies a public commitment from students to embrace their future opportunities with an open mind regarding career pathways.

Community members are encouraged to pledge their support in guiding our youth

on their journey. Signing the Pledge Board symbolises this commitment, with the boards prominently displayed in each school for all to see.

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