# THRIVE/SUCCEED Grant and Counseling

Amy McDonald January 2023

#### Counseling

The time leading up to the holidays can be challenging for some of our students. Our staff does an amazing job being aware of the academic, social and emotional states of our students. We were able to work through a few nervous times for some of our students. (Goal 1)

It has been a goal of SISD for many years to move scheduling for graduation planning from one central person/team to involving more of the site based staff that have better opportunities to include students and parents in graduation planning. I am excited to see this goal being accomplished. (Goal 1)

We are seeing more and more of our students taking dual credit courses through the Alaska Advantage program. This is so exciting. We continue to write this cost into grants that we are awarded so that we can support students and parents and take away some of the financial burden associated with university courses. (Goal 1)

#### THRIVE/SELECT/REWARD/SUCCEED/SOAR Grants

**Training in ANC:** Prince of Wales had 22 staff, community members, and students attend the two sessions offered through the grants on POW.

Creating Resilient Students: The Power of Webs of Support
Wired for Connection

Throughout the whole two days, I continually heard adults commenting on the value our students added to the training. It is amazing to see our students stand up as leaders



among adult participants to support their learning! Students were able to support adults in understanding the value and necessity of building resilience in their lives. VERY POWERFUL!

When you see a staff, student, or community member that attended the training, ask them to explain the image below to you! (Goal 1, 2, 4)



National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference: Although this is not an SISD event, there is value in SISD staff facilitating events outside of our area. In November, I was invited (this was a contracted opportunity through our partnership with Brightways Learning) to facilitate two sessions for the National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. During these sessions I was able to showcase some of the efforts of SISD's Ag Program. SISD is doing some amazing work and I am proud to be able to share our work with others. (Goal 3 and 4)

**SOAR Update:** We have hired both a SOAR Grant Coordinator, Becca Ververs, and a SOAR Grant Career and Technical Ed Counselor, Heather Mendonsa. Both these positions are hired through Klawock School District and will service SISD and Craig as well. Be looking for visits from both of them soon.

Some things to look forward to for our students and staff:

- Personal Learning and Career Plans (PLPC) Each student in grades 6 through 12 will create, with the SOar Grant Career and Technical Ed Counselor, a PLPC. Heather is looking a options and will be visiting sites soon to work with students, staff and parents to develop the PLPCs.
- ZSpace Laptops and Software Interactive AR/VR Technology: The grant will
  provide laptops and software for schools to experience immersive and interactive
  learning experiences for today's workforce.
- Business Education Summit: In partnership with the POW VoTech Center, POW Health Network, and POW Chamber of Commerce the Business Education Summit will take place in April. More info to come soon.

### (Goal 1 and 4)

**SUCCEED Update:** We are still advertising for a school counselor to fulfill a requirement of the SUCCEED grant. As soon as this position is hired, grant events will commence. We are in full compliance with US DOE requirements.

The United States Department of Education, Office of Indian Education hosted a one day, in-person, grant leadership summit in Washington, DC on December 9. It was a lot of travel for a one day event, but the content and networking was well worth the travel. Content included ways to increase sustainability post grant, budget restrictions and opportunities, ideas for meeting grant goals and objectives, and getting to know your program managers. (Goal 1, 2, 4)

**THRIVE Update:** Our new hire, Ellis, is actively working with staff to meet the goals and objectives of the THRIVE grant. She is working with Sherry and Shaine on the Future Leaders program and with me on upcoming PHlight events (PHlight Clubs and Camps and WebMasters). **(Goal 1 and 4)** 

Each site (Lead Teacher) was given the opportunity to hire a paraprofessional and provide extra duty for a certified staff to provide twice a week after school homework and connection events. These events can be set up by the individual school as long as some time is spent on academic support and some is spent on adult/youth connection. Thanks to Coffman and Naukati for getting this opportunity up and running! (Goal 1 and 4)

**Value Up:** Mike Donahue, founder and director of Value Up, visited POW during the week of November 14. After his visit, the students in Hollis wrote professional Thank You letters to Mike, SISD, and Brightways for providing this opportunity. They also wrote essays about their learning after the event. Here is a <u>link</u> to their Thank You letters. Please take some time to read them and then ask the students about their essays.

## SISD Strategic Plan Goals

**Goal 1:** Prepare Students for Post-Secondary Life

**Goal 2:** Provide Sufficient/Effective Staff Support

**GOAL 3:** Increase Communication District and Community Wide

Goal 4: Increase Visibility to Share Lifestyle and Increase Enrollment