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Date: December 11, 2024

To: Minidoka County School District Board of Trustees

From: Geraldine Vega/ McKinney Vento Liaison

Subject: Report from National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth

Dear Board of Trustees,

As you know, I recently attended the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. The conference was held in Orlando, FL from November 17 through November 19.

Each year NAEHCY brings together those who, on a daily basis, work closely with homeless children and youth. Through a series of keynote addresses, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities, the NAEHCY conference is the only conference of its kind and boasts an attendance of more than 2,000 professionals.

My favorite part has always been the keynote speakers. This year they had Brandon Fleming, an at risk youth and college dropout turned award-winning educator, and Jennifer Friend, Chief Executive Officer of Project Hope Alliance (PHA), which works to end the cycle of youth homelessness using a long-term, site-based model of providing whole-person trauma-informed care for youth experiencing homeless in Orange County.

Sessions that I attended that will further guide me on how I can better support our students in need are listed below.

- Supporting Youth Experiencing Homelessness and Youth in Foster Care who have been in the Juvenile Justice System
- Bridging Youth Experiencing Homelessness and the Foster Care System into Post-Secondary Pathways: A holistic Model to Educational Attainment
- Unaccompanied Youth: Don't Let Them Fall Through the Cracks
- What's Hot on the Hill: A Federal Policy and Advocacy Update
- Steps to Postsecondary Success: Filling out the FAFSA and Connecting with Homeless Higher Education Liaisons
- Creating Equity in Career & Technical Education Through Student Voice
- To Graduation and Beyond: Supporting our McKinney Vento students through High School and into their post-secondary journey

For me, the sessions were very helpful to further my knowledge of the position I hold as a district McKinney-Vento Liaison.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Vega
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