



# Klamath Falls City Schools

**100% Graduation is Our Expectation!**

December 2, 2014

## **KFCS' District Newsletter**

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

### **Do You Know Some Heroes?**

Last year, KFCS inaugurated the first annual Everyday Hero Awards. This recognition is given to employees, teachers and support staff, who go above the call of duty to help students succeed and to bring improvements to their work places. What was discovered through this event is just how many employees are committed to making their schools and the district effective.

Last year we had about 22 employees honored at a breakfast at Ponderosa. Click on this link [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_7KpWDRNV8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_7KpWDRNV8) to see a video that highlights the work of these individuals.

Now plans are being made for this year's event and you can be a part of it. If you know a KFCS' employee that deserves to be acknowledged for his/her work, fill out and send in the attached form before January 2015. We would welcome your input as we put together our list of heroes for this year's event.

Another part of this celebration is recognizing one community partner for their support of education in Klamath Falls. Last year's winner was the *Herald and News* for their promotion of the Klamath Promise Initiative. Again, if you have a suggestion for the Community Partner of the Year, let us know by simply replying to this email.

It has often been said that improving student success takes team effort. The Everyday Heroes Awards and the Community Partner of the Year Award allow the district to do something concrete to recognize this critical teamwork. This occasion is also an excellent way for our staff to learn from one another the countless ways they can exceed expectations in bringing about excellence in our schools.

### **Other News:**

1. A Citizens' Oversight Committee is being formed to monitor the KU bond project. They are citizen representatives who will meet with school officials and construction companies of the project over the next two years. Call us at [541-883-4700](tel:541-883-4700) extension 1 if you have an interest or want more information.
2. You may have heard that high school alternative programming for students needing extra support towards their graduation has moved from Link River Alternative High School to the

KU campus. This programming has three levels of service. The first is a self-contained program where between 10-to-15 students spend the majority of their day with one supervisor. Their curriculum is primarily delivered through online resources. The second level includes students who spend part of their day in online credit recovery and the rest of their day in regular classes. The third level is similar to the rest of KU students. Pupils at this level receive assistance through a check-in/check-out system that provides a staff member at the beginning and end of their days who meets with them to ensure adequate academic progress is being made.

Moving to this in-school model of support allows students to take advantage of elective classes with their peers, receive instruction from teachers certified in their subject areas, and participate in high school activities. It is proving to be a better model for helping students receive a full high school experience while still receiving the supports they need to academically succeed.

3. The district is in the process of choosing a contractor for the KU remodel project. The board plans to approve a firm at their January, 2015, meeting. Also scheduled is the sale of construction bonds during February, 2015. An 11-member planning team will begin working with the architect this month to begin the design work. This group will be meeting frequently in January and February to help move the project forward.
4. KFCS is working with the Klamath County School District and KCC to create career pathways in area high schools. Each pathway will have elective courses that will lead to certificates and even AA degrees while the students are still in high school. The first such pathway, Health Occupations, was started this year. Three other pathways are also being created. They are in manufacturing, computer science, and business. Many of the details are still in the discussion phase. However, the general plan is to have KCC deliver classes either virtually or with instructors in the high schools in these areas. These classes will carry both high school and college credit.

KU already offers classes through OIT, SOU, and KCC that grant both college and high school credit. This new model will expand these offerings and organize them in more consistent courses of study that lead to the attainment of career opportunities for students.

This work is part of the Klamath Promise Initiative that is continuing to expand and grow in the community.

5. Below are the 2014 winners of the Everyday Hero Award:

Marvin Dykstra	Dena Solyst
D'Ana Golden	Karen Strickland
Lisa Goodfellow	Donna Thomas
Sandy Highland	Nancy Warrington
Bonnie Hay	Kristine Woodwick
Lara Luce	Tom Smith
Kurt Lonner	Carol Marsh
Warren Perdue	Mary Mateos/Valli Lonner
Darth Donahue	Elizabeth Campbell
Vicki Dumbeck	Lana Crumrine
Davene Gardner	