



Dear FSCP Friends,

I have had a constant smile on my face since last week's Kickoff of *Family and School Partnership in Education Month*. Governor Polis, along with about 120 FSCP fans, attended the Kickoff to celebrate the 2019 [Promising Partnership Practices](#). A huge highlight was Governor Polis [reading the Proclamation in Spanish](#).

Many of you are celebrating the month in different ways—having your local school board read the proclamation, recognizing school-level FSCP liaisons, or perhaps having your own celebrations.

I recommend that you find time this month, even just an hour, to meet with your district-level colleagues to celebrate the FSCP work you've already done, and to brainstorm where you'd like to go from here. The importance of continuous improvement planning cannot be understated, but neither can celebrating all that you've already done.

It is my true honor to work with all of you!

In Partnership,
Darcy

UPDATES

Several FSCP events are on the horizon. Please share the dates far and wide and mark them on your calendars.

October, Family and School Partnership in Education Month. Share the proclamation in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

October 24-25, Equity and Excellence Conference, DoubleTree by Hilton. More information [here](#).

November 15, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff, Boulder Valley School District. Register [here](#).

December 13, 10-noon, Coffee Chat for district staff and school-level liaisons, Cherry Creek School District. Register [here](#).

January 9-10, District Leaders Retreat, Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Colorado Springs. Register information forthcoming but save the date!

FSCP Coffee Chats for 2019-20, 10-noon, Third Friday of each month. Mark your calendars now!

For a more comprehensive list of announcements from CDE, you may [subscribe](#) to The Scoop, a newsletter published every Wednesday.



PROMISING PRACTICES

The Mesa County Valley School District has partnered with the Colorado State University (CSU) Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief program to provide students with hands-on learning in agriculture, life sciences, and nutrition. Students start vegetable seedlings in the greenhouse and help plant four acres of vegetables in the CSU Western Colorado Research Center Farm-to-School plots. The same students return in the fall to harvest their produce.

The experiences are more meaningful when the students eat and share what they have grown. As such, the harvests are served on their school cafeteria salad bars and donated to area food banks and pantries. Since 2017, over 2,000 students have participated in over 6,100 hours of service learning at the Research Center. Roughly 173,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables have been distributed through food banks and pantries, the school lunch program and the summer meal service program.

The scale of Research Center and the teaching kitchen facilities allow for students across the district to gain hands-on experiences in agriculture and nutrition in multiple contexts.

Click [here](#) to read more Promising Partnership Practices.

RESEARCH BRIEF

The [Global Family Research Project](#) recently published a wonderful new resource, called the [Family Engagement Playbook](#). The Playbook is a collection of [promising research-based approaches](#) to strengthen the competencies of people, groups, and organizations that are dedicated to families.

The Playbook offers ideas, models, and tools that can be easily integrated into training, continuing education, and organizational learning opportunities.

The Playbook is divided into three sections:

1. [Change Mindsets](#): Meaningful family engagement necessitates a shift in mindset: from doing to and for families to doing with them; from being the expert to acknowledging parents as experts; from a one-size-fits all approach to personalizing family engagement.
2. [Build Relationships](#): When relationships with educators are characterized by mutual respect, trust, open communication, and inclusion in decision making, families are more likely to feel confident about their roles as advocates and to become more engaged in their children's learning.
3. [Transform Organizations](#): Schools, early-childhood centers, libraries and other organizations working with families to support children's success must remove barriers and create the conditions that enable co-created family engagement.

SACPIE SPOTLIGHT

Members of SACPIE's K-12 Subcommittee recently took part in a site visit to the Roaring Fork School District, which has 13 schools across the communities of Glenwood Springs, Carbondale, and Basalt. As part of the visit, members visited [Valley Settlement](#), a local nonprofit organization in the Roaring Fork Valley serving immigrant families with 2Gen programming. As their website explains, "A key component of 2Gen [or two-generation] is that even when the primary focus is on either the child or the parent, the other generation is also engaged."

All of Valley Settlement's programs have been developed through deep listening to families, including their flagship

Parent Mentors program. The program was originally developed to "build a bridge between Latinx families and the schools" and they have had such success growing the program that now "Parent Mentors dedicate over 15,000 volunteer hours annually to elementary school students." To learn more and see photos of these incredible parents in action, click [here](#).

SACPIE meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public. The next meeting is located at MindSpark Learning in Englewood, CO on November 19 from 9am-3pm. For more information about SACPIE, click [here](#).

THANK YOU FOR SPENDING TIME WITH US THIS MONTH.
WATCH FOR THE NEXT EDITION IN NOVEMBER.

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