
Readership project debuts with training for teachers in five districts

Last summer, California Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond announced that the California Department of Education (CDE) would provide two \$500,000 grants to address

Last week, project directors Jenean Bray and Tammy Miller, members of the English Language Arts team at Educational Resource Services, kicked off Readership with virtual training for 60 teachers, leaders, and coaches from nine elementary and middle schools within the partner districts. Participants were engaged in learning strategies to foster the mindsets of students in grades 4-8 to engage in literacy. Attendees also heard from awarding author and staff development leader Donalyn Miller. Through her presentation, Ms. Miller shared research on the correlation between reading and student success, and provided suggestions and resources to foster children's love of reading.

One of the highlights of the training was the introduction of a four-part video developed by the project directors in partnership with the Theatre Company. Current and former TCOE Theatre Company students starred in each segment, including one entitled "The Book Report." In this segment, a teacher checks in with his class via Zoom to discuss their book report project. The students announced that they've chosen the book *Dreams From Many Rivers* by Margarita Engle, but have few ideas on developing their project. The teacher encourages them to think outside the box. Uninspired at first, the students eventually find a line from a poem in the book that motivates them to write and perform a music video.

The

schools. Current and former Theatre Company students acted and sang in the segments, including an original music video entitled Fall & Rise

CHOICES provides online resource for teachers and students

Depression is not just sadness. Depression is not weakness. Depression is not a choice.

These statements and the facts that support them can be found in a new online prevention resource for teachers and students developed by the CHOICES Program. Located at tcoe.org/CHOICESnewsletter, the series of two-page newsletters contains simple strategies for students to deal with a variety of timely topics, including the challenges of communication and anxiety during distance learning.

Each week, the CHOICES Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE) Program will post a new edition of the TUPE newsletter to its webpage and share important highlights on TCOE's social

Distance Learning Resources

[Arts All Around Us](#)
[TCOE Learning at Home](#)
[TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

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To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit tcoe.org/GetTheGallery or contact Jennifer Fisher at jenniferf@tcoe.org or (559) 731-172.
