

## IN BRIEF

## Hermiston names Keown as 'Distinguished Alumnus'

Hermiston School District Superintendent Dr. Fred Maiocco announced Alan Keown, a 1975 Hermiston High School graduate, as the 2016 Hermiston High School Distinguished Alumnus.



Alan Keown

Keown is a well-known percussion teacher and arranger throughout the Pacific Northwest. In 1989 he founded the Alan Keown Marching Percussion Camp, held in Eugene, Ore., and he has taught for University of Oregon, Oregon State University and various high school programs, along with Ted Turner's Goodwill Games ceremonies and the competitive tour sponsored by Drum Corps International.

The Distinguished Alumnus award recognizes former Hermiston High School graduates who went on to serve in critical roles within business, industry, academia and government throughout the United States and the world and who will inspire current students to pursue excellence and achievement in their own endeavors.

Keown is a 1980 graduate of University of Oregon, where he earned a bachelor's degree in percussion performance. He publishes marching band music with Matrix Publishing Company, concert percussion literature with Alfred Publishing and TapSpace Publications, and indoor drumline shows with Marching Show Concepts. Keown is married to Denise, and they have two sons, Matt and Chris.

## Hermiston schools win 9th consecutive award

For the ninth year in a row, the Hermiston School

District business office has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for the district's 2014-2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The certificate is awarded primarily to government units whose CAFRs meet the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting. The CAFRs are judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

This is the 10th time the Hermiston School District has been recognized for its CAFR. The District was previously honored for the 2013-14, 2012-13, 2011-12, 2010-11, 2009-10, 2008-09, 2007-08, 2006-07, and 2004-05 school years.

## Forum tackles school funding crisis

A forum is planned to explore the funding crisis in Oregon public schools.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters, "Great Schools, Great Communities" is Monday from 6-8 p.m. in the commons at Hermiston High School, 600 S. First St. People are invited to share their ideas on what it will take to provide all Oregon students with a quality education.

For more information, contact 541-449-1311, tonilampkin@gmail.com or visit [www.greatoregon-schools.org](http://www.greatoregon-schools.org).

# Hermiston High heading to FCCLA Nationals

## Students qualify at state for national conference

By JENNIFER COLTON  
Staff Writer

Seven students from Hermiston High School have qualified for the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in San Diego, Calif., and one will travel as Hermiston's first Oregon State FCCLA president.

"We're pretty excited to have a first-time state president," advisor Susie Cobb said. "It's a pretty amazing experience at nationals. It's hard to believe what it's like until you go there."

FCCLA — Family, Career and Community Leaders of America — is a nonprofit national career and technical student organization. Students from across the country compete in local, regional and state events to qualify for the national conference, July 2-8 in San Diego, Calif.

Thirty Hermiston students competed at the Oregon state event this year, and seven earned gold medals to qualify for state:

- Hannah Reese, senior — Hospitality
  - Canden Gutierrez, freshman — Focus on Children
  - Jesus Ramirez, senior — Applied Math in Culinary Management
  - Jasmin Chen, sophomore, and Salma Anguiano, senior — Food Innovations
  - Amelia Boyd, sophomore, and Yvette Mendoza, sophomore — National Programs in Action
- To compete at the state level,

students had to win a silver or gold medal at regional competitions. To qualify for the national competition, they had to earn a medal at the state competition as well.

"We were hoping for a silver, and we never expected to get gold. We went there to try out best and see what happened," Gutierrez said. "We did come together as a team, and we learned a lot."

The projects run across the board. Ramirez worked with applied mathematics in culinary management: building a menu for an event, figuring our costs and prices and how much to charge per plate to make a profit. Chen and Anguiano created a "Hawaiian Paradise" smoothie that incorporated servings of fruits and vegetables in "food innovations." Reese created an outline of a business complete with a website, mission statement and audience considerations. Gutierrez created a "Focus on Children" program to increase health for elementary kids through different activities, skills and food choices, and Amelia Boyd and Yvette Mendoza organized a coin drive for Agape House that earned them a spot in the "National Programs in Action" category.

"There's really a good range of programs people can do. I think people get confused that it's just cooking or working with kids, but it's not," Reese said. "There's so much you can do to prepare for your future."

For Anguiano, the state conference had the added stress of her application for state office. Once she presented her speech, the competi-

tion returned to normal stress levels — until she was named president.

"I had no idea. I was shocked, but I am very grateful," she said.

"When you go to state, you're representing your school," Anguiano said. "At nationals, you're representing your state."

During the national competition, students will both compete and take leadership training classes.

Ramirez said looking toward nationals is both exciting and nerve-wracking.

"State was fun, but nationals might be a little more overwhelming," he said. "It will be a challenge."

In between now and July, the students will study the feedback they received at state and make any necessary adjustments. They will practice and make their presentations the best they can be.

"Once you go to nationals, it's down to business," Reese said. "There are always things you can improve on."

Each of the students said the skills they practice for FCCLA competitions translate directly into real-world skills, such as learning how to use algebra skills in a business setting or how to interact with community members in a leadership role.

"I think FCCLA is very important because it teaches a lot of life skills. Each day, I feel like I'm learning something I can use in my future," Anguiano said. "I'm very happy to be representing my state at the national level, but I'm also happy to be representing my school and Hermiston."

## IMESD announces 2016 Crystal Apple Award winners

Hermiston Herald

The InterMountain Education Service District has announced the winners of the 2016 Crystal Apple "Excellence in Education" Awards.

A total of 45 individuals were honored from the IMESD's component school districts in eastern Oregon.

Each year, the IMESD partners with its school districts to recognize outstanding administrators, teachers, educational as-

sistants and office and building staff for their dedication and commitment to students and for their willingness to go above and beyond their regular duties. Nominations are submitted over a two-month period by administrators, coworkers, parents, students and community members. Winners are selected from these nominations by school district administration.

More information about the Crystal Apple Awards

can be found at [www.imesd.k12.or.us/crystalapple/home](http://www.imesd.k12.or.us/crystalapple/home).

Winners from local school districts were:

### Echo School District

Jessica Rist (counselor, Echo High School)

Brandi Russell (math/PE Teacher, Echo High School)

### Morrow County School District

Pat King (special education teacher, Riverside Jr/Sr High School)

Brenda Kittelson (1st grade teacher, A.C. Houghton Elementary School)

Jody Marston (registrar, Riverside Jr/Sr High School)

Barbara Phillips (head secretary, Irrigon Elementary School)

### Stanfield School District

Marilyn Durbin (language arts teacher, Stanfield Secondary School)

Katie Johnson (social studies teacher, Stanfield Secondary School)

### Umatilla School District

Keith Gebers (business education teacher, Umatilla High School)

Erin Iveson (office manager, McNary Heights Elementary School)

### InterMountain ESD

Kari Baybado (autism consultant, Regional Programs & Related Services)

Obdulia (Abby) Munoz (lead recruiter/parent liaison, Instructional Services)

Heidi Paulus (instructional strategies specialist, Instructional Services)

Casey Seeger (E-Rate specialist, InterMountain Technology)



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