

# Generation Club seniors honor former teachers

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston High School Generation College students are continuing a tradition of recognizing elementary and middle school teachers whose hard work and inspiration helped them realize their dreams and sparked the desire to pursue a college degree.

According to a news release from the district, the Geny Award given by the club symbolizes the teamwork needed to help students reach their dreams, and honors those that provided a helping hand when students faced challenging moments.

This year's Geny Award recipients are Anne Lusted, math teacher at Armand



Lusted



Muldowney



McElroy

Larive Middle School; Lisa McElroy, science teacher at Sandstone Middle School; and Colleen Muldowney, English language development teacher at Highland Hills Elementary School.

HHS seniors Eliana Esparza and Anthony Jiménez, who both plan to attend Western Oregon University in the fall, said that Lusted helped them with other classes by checking in with them to make sure they stayed on track.

"Mrs. Lusted helped me with my shyness with her jokes and giving me advice to prepare me for high school,"

Esparza said in a statement. "She inspired us to be a better person by being herself."

Lusted responded to the award by saying she was very honored to receive it, according to the news release.

"It is nice to know that I made a difference, that my seventh- and eighth-grade students still remember our time together, and that it still is impacting them to this day," she said in a

statement. "I had teachers in my past that I still reflect back on that helped develop me as a person, and I'm so proud that I have done that for another student."

Omar Sánchez, who plans to attend Portland State University, said he recalled fun, energizing lessons about plate tectonics, making ice cream, competing for the Golden Peanut in science class, but most of all that McElroy had a genuine interest in seeing her students succeed. He thanked McElroy for "teaching us to imagine."

McElroy said she "could not be prouder to be part of the ripple of influence that Omar will undoubtedly continue."

"I believe it takes each of

us to make a difference for all of us. Omar's willingness to reach back in gratitude is, frankly, inspiring. I'm honored to have made a difference in a life — there is absolutely nothing more rewarding," she said.

Maria Alatorre Ledezma, who plans to attend Eastern Oregon University in the fall, selected Muldowney for being instrumental in her transition to the U.S. and in learning a second language.

"She's the teacher that has had the biggest impact on me because she started teaching me this language and it's something I'm never going to forget," she said.

Muldowney said she was honored to work with

Alatorre Ledezma at the beginning of her time in Hermiston.

"It was a time that really sticks out in my memory too, as I had just transitioned to Eastern Oregon from the Midwest," she said. "We were learning new things together."

This is the 15th graduating class since the inception of Generation College in 2004.

The club was established to support students who would be the first in their families to attend college through the application process. Geny Award recipients are encouraged to continue to impact and inspire future generations and spark many more conversations about college.

# New Mutual Aid Network helps community with food access

By NADA SEWIDAN  
STAFF WRITER

Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance created the Mutual Aid Network to assist low-income community members with food access in the time of COVID-19.

The network assembles a repository of resources, services and support and coordinates volunteers to help individuals needing groceries, prescriptions and other small errands. Program Coordinator Meghan Chancey said the assistance program was a result of the

pandemic and its effect on food access.

"We had sent a survey out to Eastern Oregon previously and we found that there were some needs directly correlated to food access or local food pantries needing assistance," Chancey said. "That's why we started it."

Community members can fill out support forms and state what specific needs they may have and Chancey will field those requests, connecting individuals with the appropriate resource or service.

Chancey said the Mutual

Aid Network initially started as a way to provide COVID-19 relief. The network was awarded a partial grant from the Oregon Community Recovery Fund to help with its initial launch, which provides funding for up to four months. In addition to the grant funding, community members can also donate directly to their GoFundMe page. Chancey said the money donated supports grocery deliveries or general funding for local food pantries.

"It's a way to help connect community mem-

bers together who may not know there are people here to support or that there are people that need support," Chancey said.

Those interested in applying for services or looking to volunteer can sign-up on their website at [eohla.org/easternoregonmutualaid/](http://eohla.org/easternoregonmutualaid/).

Eastern Oregon Healthy Living Alliance is a non-profit founded in 2014 to help support Oregon community health through implementing different programs that address socioeconomic and environmental concerns.

# Hermiston School District to host conference for educators, police

HERMISTON HERALD

Hermiston School District and InterMountain Education Service District will host a regional Conscious Discipline conference July 6-10, at Armand Larive Middle School.

According to a news release from the district, Conscious Discipline is an "evidence-based trauma-informed approach to provide behavioral management strategies and classroom structures educators can use to teach students the skills they will need in everyday situations."

The social learning program, created by author and early childhood education expert Becky Bailey, helps educators teach students "foundational relationship skills," such as anger management, empa-



HH file photo

**Hermiston School District will host a regional Conscious Discipline conference in July.**

thy, cooperation and problem solving.

Attendees will include members of Hermiston, Morrow County, Pendleton, Stanfield, Helix, and La Grande (remotely) school districts; Umatilla-Morrow Head Start, Blue Mountain Early Learning Hub, Eastern Oregon University Head Start, and school

resource officers from the Hermiston and Pendleton police departments.

Jake Bacon, Hermiston School District's new direc-

tor of human resources and one of the event's organizers, said in a statement that he was excited for the district to host the conference for a second year.

"This year's partnership with IMESD allows us to open the conference to our regional school districts," he said. "I see it as a win-win for all of us. Home and school life are so interconnected, and this program provides powerful techniques that enable adults and children alike the ability to handle life's difficult situations."

For more information about Conscious Discipline visit [www.consciousdiscipline.com](http://www.consciousdiscipline.com).

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