

Nevada Public Education



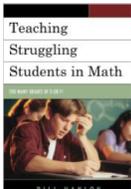
Nevada's Advanced Placement Results Giving credit where credit is due

Bill Hanlon

Some have suggested the educational “reforms” by Governor Sandoval and the NV Department of Education are responsible for the increased participation and test scores on Advanced Placement exams. All I can say to that is “Wow!”

Let’s just set the record straight.

It never ceases to amaze me to see people take credit for other people’s work. Do you recognize these names - David Thiel, Jennifer Peterson or Jane Kadoich?



In 2005, Jennifer Peterson from CCSD’s Curriculum & Professional Development and David Thiel of the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program (SN RPDP) wanted something done to increase offerings in Advanced Placement courses. They identified that one of the problems negatively impacting Nevada was the lack of teachers with AP certification who were able to teach these classes. To gain AP certification, Nevada teachers had to travel out of state to receive AP training and also had to come up with the tuition of \$500, plus air fare, car, hotel, etc. Their request to establish a Nevada program and have the RPDP fund this program was approved in 2005 during a time of budget cuts.

To address this need in Nevada, the RPDP and CCSD’s Curriculum and Professional Development Department fought to get our own state AP program. The two closest AP training programs in California and Arizona clearly did not support Nevada’s bid to have our own program. After months of haggling, the RPDP and CCSD’s partnership paid off and the first Silver State Advanced Placement Summer Program was born in 2006. To have an Advanced Placement Program endorsed by the College Board, we had to bring in AP trainers from all over the country paying them a stipend and their travel costs, set up housing and transportation, etc.

That first year, 358 teachers participated in the program, 258 of whom were from Nevada. In 2007, 394 participated, 302 were from Nevada. The out-of-state participants were from all around the country and the income stream generated from those participants reduced Nevada’s taxpayers’ share of funding our Advanced Placement Program through the RPDP.

Through this partnership, all Nevada teachers, north and south, received AP training free of charge. And since many of the teachers lived in southern Nevada, the travel and lodging costs were no longer a major obstacle.

We witnessed an immediate surge in school AP offerings as a direct result of the groundwork of CCSD's Curriculum & Professional Development and the SN RPDP. Then, thanks to the "push" by CCSD's Board of Trustees, even greater numbers of students "opted" to take the AP exams.

The ability of Nevada's students to have access to advanced placement classes is a direct result of the CCSD and RPDP partnership that created the Silver State Advanced Placement Summer Institute. This summer will be the 13th institute. A huge thank you goes to Jennifer Peterson, David Thiel, and Jane Kadoich.

Bill Hanlon, is a noted speaker, an author, educator, consultant and coach for schools, former Director of the Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, and is a national presenter for organizations such as AASA, ASCD, ALAS, NMSA, NASSP, NSBA, and NCTM. He was the coordinator of Clark County School District's Math/Science Institute and was also responsible for K-12 math audits. He served as vice president of the Nevada State Board of Education, Regional Director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) and as a member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) States Partnership Board. He also hosted a television series, "Algebra, *you can do it!*" on PBS Las Vegas.

[Follow Bill on twitter and Facebook](#)