

news galleryweek

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CFNLP introduces interim administrator Nani Dodson, hosts annual event

Last week, the California Friday Night Live Partnership (CFNLP) introduced Nani Dodson as the interim CFNLP administrator at its annual Friday Night Live Leadership Training Institute. Dodson succeeds Lynne Goodwin who retired this summer.

Dodson has been with CFNLP since 2007 and most recently served as a program analyst. Her work as an analyst included program management, grant oversight, and coordination of statewide trainings. Prior to CFNLP, Dodson was a social worker for a foster family agency. She is a graduate of San Diego State University, where she received her bachelor's degree in psychology.



CFNLP supports the development of local youth-driven programs to address issues surrounding the use or involvement in alcohol, tobacco, other drugs (ATOD), gambling, and traffic safety. It provides the leadership and field support needed for the continued growth and enhancement of Friday Night Live, Club Live, Friday Night Live Kids, and Friday Night Live Mentoring in 50 counties throughout the state. The program's staff have been housed within the Tulare County Office of Education for over 25 years.

"As we reflect on this past year, we celebrate the tremendous achievements witnessed throughout the year," Dodson said during a State of the State address at the FNL Leadership Training Institute. "Our FNL chapters have worked tirelessly to support ATOD prevention and awareness campaigns, promote mental health awareness, and cultivate a safe and inclusive environment for all. Through innovative campaigns, educational events, and peer mentorship, FNL youth have truly become a force for good in our communities."



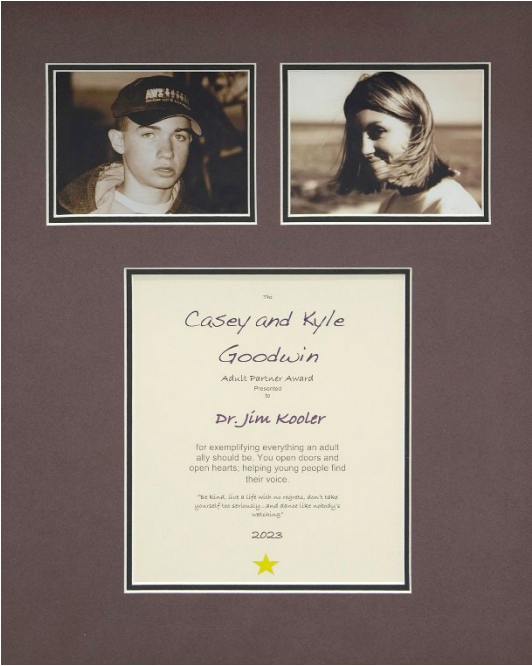
This year's event was themed "Locally Grown" and held at the Visalia Convention Center over three days. Workshops varied with topics such as social-emotional learning, environmental protection, youth view on cannabis, FNL mentoring, screen use awareness and gaming addiction, and exploring culture and diversity.

Four awards were also given out at the FNL Leadership Training Institute.

Lynne Goodwin and the Goodwin family selected Dr. Jim Kooler for the **Casey & Kyle Adult Ally Award** for his role in securing funding for FNL to infuse social-emotional learning competencies in their work. Kooler was previously the administrator of CFNLP for 17 years.

The **Pete Bellin Strength and Courage Award** went to Yolo County FNL for their dedicated commitment to the program this year.

CFNLP named the Dedication Award after Goodwin this year. The **Lynne Goodwin Dedication Award** went to Brenda Armstrong, who recently retired after 30 impactful years as FNL county coordinator in Santa Cruz County and as an FNL trainer across the state.



The **Dr. Jim Kooler Leadership Award** was given to Cyndi Diezsi from Shasta County FNL for her decades-long role on the policy committee that supports the FNL Mentoring program across the state.

“We (CFNLP) want to express our gratitude to the dedicated FNL funders, coordinators, advisors, community partners, and of course, youth leaders who have made this program a beacon of hope and empowerment in our communities,” said Dodson. “Together, we have fostered a culture of resilience, engagement, and positive change across the state.”

For more information on the California Friday Night Live Partnership, visit tcoe.org/cfnlp.

Photos above:

~ Nearly 200 Friday Night Live coordinators from counties and chapters throughout the state attended the annual California Friday Night Live Partnership’s Leadership Training Institute last week. The program currently has 600 chapters involving over 25,000 students in youth development and school and community prevention programs.

CHOICES opens registration for annual Leadership Conference, scheduled for September 21



This week the CHOICES Program announced that registration is open for its annual Leadership Conference, which is designed to train and empower middle school students to create positive, inclusive programs on campus. Advisors are invited to register their teams of up to seven students at bit.ly/2023FNL_TUPE_Leadership.

This year, the conference will be held September 21 from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the Visalia Adventure Park. Through a series of hands-on workshops, participants will learn about being a leader on campus, social-emotional learning, event planning, creating and managing school-wide campaigns, and making healthy choices free from vaping, tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.

The state's Friday Night Live (FNL) and Tobacco-Use Prevention Education (TUPE) programs support the annual CHOICES Leadership Conference. The CHOICES Program offers the event annually to help young people develop as positive leaders at school and in their communities.

For more information about the conference, contact Brittaney Quinonez at brittaney.quinonez@tcoe.org or (559) 651-0155.

Photo above:

Mission Oak High School students lead a breakout session for nearly 200 students at the annual Leadership Conference in 2022.

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