

County of El Dorado

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December 9, 2008

Ms. Marjorie M. Dickinson
Assistant Vice Chancellor, UC Davis University of California
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616

Dear Ms. Dickinson:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of introduction of the El Dorado County Youth Commission on behalf of our Board of Supervisors. Since 2004, I have been acting as the Board of Supervisors' liaison with the Youth Commission as they advise the Board on issues relating to youth in our county.

The Youth Commission is a youth advocacy group that allows teens to develop their leadership skills, work with policy makers, and become active citizens in their community. They serve as an advisor faction to the Board of Supervisors to ensure the youth is recognized and has a voice in local government issues.

Under the guidance and leadership of Youth Commission Director, Carol Martin, I have watched them brainstorm, develop strategies, and accomplish their goals in the many activities they have sponsored to engage other teens to become involved and empowered. They proved themselves effective representatives for the youth of El Dorado County when they hosted a public forum to discuss the future of the local skate park. Joe's Skate park was in danger of being shut down and the Youth Commission worked to find solutions agreeable to all parties involved, ensuring that the skate park remained open and self supervised.

In a quest to encourage more participation within the community, the Youth Commission developed a comprehensive booklet describing the rewards of becoming involved and the effect of youth in governance. The commissioners attended local high school history classes and taught their peers about local government and its ties to youth. No doubt the teens in our county benefited greatly from their efforts!

The Youth Commission continues to search for ways to provide forums for youth to be involved in making decisions in our community. Recently they created a comprehensive plan that will encourage healthy changes to improve the well-being of our county residents and its resources. The Youth Commission developed a Resolution adopted by our Board of Supervisors, Environmental Vision for El Dorado County that sets forth goals to educate and promote positive environmental changes.

I know I speak for the entire Board of Supervisors when I say how impressed we are with their organization skills and ability to appear and speak in public as well as their resolve to get things done. We are all proud to be associated with this fine group of vibrant and highly motivated young adults.

Sincerely,

Rusty Dupray, Liaison to Youth Commission and
Supervisor District 1
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors