

It is my pleasure to share with you all the final presentation from our 2021/2022 Youth Commission as well as a few concluding thoughts.

This year's group of dynamic and wonderful youth continue to provide insight and leadership on topics affecting their peers. Their voices are strong and given this development opportunity and continued support of their passions, I have no doubt that each of them will continue to participate in shaping the future of El Dorado County. I am incredibly proud of their ownership of some extremely complex and heavy topics, as well as their commitment to serving their peers. As their projects progress, you can continue to monitor the Commissioners' updates on their website, [YCHEALTH.ORG](http://YCHEALTH.ORG).

I have two graduating seniors this year: Amanda Kendler and Emma Lopez, both from El Dorado High School. Witnessing these fantastic young students grow into their power has been a joy. I am tremendously proud and excited for their next steps on their journeys. Both lead with kindness, grace and compassion and their contributions to the Youth Commission will be missed greatly.

To say that these last few school years proved challenging for all students seems like an understatement. One of my favorite sayings is, "candor gives wings to strength." Through the power outages, global pandemic, raging wildfires, complex and often divisive politics, as well as the additional every day academic and social pressures and expectations, each of these students continued to press on with fortitude, showing up week after week, and openly sharing their personal stories and vulnerabilities. These honest conversations work to engage their strength in community and are essential to identifying areas where they can work together to support their peers. I am continually impressed with their genuine care for one another, teamwork, trusting and welcoming environment, and dedication to completing their projects.

It has truly been an honor to serve as the Youth Commission Advisor these last four years. Each of the Commissioners have made lasting impressions on my heart. I have served as their advisor, moving background pieces to support their projects and empowering and supporting their voices; but additionally, as a cheerleader in each of their individual journeys. It is with sincere gratitude that I thank the El Dorado County Office of Education, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, and El Dorado County Board of Education for this opportunity and support.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to building future leaders.

With Gratitude,

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