



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Grand Opening for NUSD Community Education Center

Novato, CA – The Novato Unified School District is excited to announce the Grand Opening of the Community Education Center on Friday, January 29, 2016, 1:30 pm followed by a Community Celebration on Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10 am to 2 pm. The Community Education Center (CEC) is located at 931C Street in the Hamilton area in Novato.

The NUSD Community Education Center (CEC) consists of four (4) learning pods to support the development of 21st Century skills for our students and families. Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, and Creativity are the skills most commonly linked to required 21st Century Skills. Teaching these skills along with content requires new educational spaces and the CEC provides these new learning spaces to support this shift in teaching and learning.

The CEC is a partnership of the Novato Unified School District with the Marin County Free Library and the New Media Learning. The partnership with the Marin County Free Library (MCFL) began a year ago with an agreement between NUSD and the County of Marin to relocate the South Novato Library Branch in Hamilton to the district's Parcel 1B in the Hamilton area. The move to Parcel 1B doubled the size of the South Novato Library Branch.

The MCFL dedicated \$1.485 million to find an alternate space for the South Novato Library Branch in November 2014 as their lease was to expire at the end of June 2015. The total cost of the Community Education Center was estimated at \$1,528,326 of which the County of Marin contributed \$1,000,000 and the Novato Unified School District contributed \$428,326.

The partnership with New Media Learning Center (NMLC) was finalized in early December 2015 and the NMLC moved in shortly thereafter. The Center is home to many after school and evening programs including Maker Space activities, Intel Computer Clubhouse and programs for special needs. Additional programs will be added such as Curious Wonder, Making in the Classroom, adult education programs,

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and independent study programs for STEAM and MEDIA learning to name a few. Marin County Office of Educations will support the Center and move the Regional Occupation Program (ROP) for Engineering and Media Career Pathways to the Center.

In addition to the library and the New Media Learning Center, the CEC also includes a Model Classroom. These learning pods will provide the space for programs that will allow teachers and students the opportunity to explore new technology, develop new teaching pedagogies, and to build and create projects that could support Project Based Learning (PBL) curriculum.

“We're excited to partner with the County to expand library services in Southern Novato and provide additional educational opportunities for students and the community through the New Media Learning Center,” said Karen Maloney, NUSD Assistant Superintendent.

Both the Marin County Free Library and NUSD have been invited to participate in the ConnectED Library Summit being held at the White House on January 19, 2016. Karen Maloney will be representing NUSD along with Sara Jones, Director of Marin County Free Libraries. The Summit will provide the opportunity for libraries, school districts and local government to share strategies and approaches that will collectively improve educational outcomes for students. We will share information about the Community Education Center and the partnership between the NUSD, the Marin County Free Library, and the New Media Center.

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