

MEMBER PROFILE

Member Spotlight:

Sarah Koligian

*Superintendent of Tulare
Joint Union High School District*

Sarah Koligian switching her career path from accounting to teaching was the business world's loss and education's gain.

Sarah graduated from Fresno State with a degree in business administration and briefly worked in accounting before finding her true calling while leading a church Sunday school class.

"I really received great satisfaction from teaching children," she says.

That prompted her to return to school to earn a teaching credential and launched her 28-year career – a journey that has taken her from the classroom to her current position as superintendent for the Tulare Joint Union High School District.

In her first job as a resource teacher at Madison Elementary School in Central Unified School District, Sarah worked with English as a Second Language students who primarily spoke Spanish, Hmong and Punjabi.

(Cont. inside—Sarah Koligian)



Tulare Branch Opening Soon



As we put the finishing touches on our Tulare branch, scheduled to open in August, we look forward to serving the town and surrounding communities. The branch at Prosperity Avenue and Brentwood Street will be EECU's 16th branch as we continue to expand services for our members.

Bulletin Board



Holiday Hours

In observance of the following holidays we will be closed:

Independence Day

Friday, July 3rd

Our Call Center will be closed Saturday, July 4th. Normal business hours will resume on Monday, July 6.



Labor Day

Monday, September 7th

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 8th.



Upcoming Event

September 29: Merced County Excellence in Education Awards



Member Education

Three workshops on “Improving Your Credit Score”

July 22: Visalia Branch (Mooney and Caldwell) – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

July 23: Barstow Branch (Barstow and Fresno) – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

August 25: Merced Branch (El Portal and G Street) – 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Details: myEECU.org

Carr Brothers, EECU Continue Partnership



We were excited to welcome Derek and David Carr to town recently for the filming of EECU commercials as we continue our proud partnership with the former Fresno State star quarterbacks.

The Carr brothers are appearing in commercials and on billboards endorsing EECU and our support of the community.

Derek, who will begin his second year as the starting quarterback for the Oakland Raiders in the fall, says he is optimistic about the team's upcoming season.

“We definitely have the talent and we feel that we have something special in Oakland,” he says.

David, whose NFL career spanned 11 seasons, has been busy with Carr Elite, a facility for fitness, conditioning and strengthening in Bakersfield. He says the youth camps are “going great.”

“We just show them love and give them opportunities to do well in life,” David says.

Carr Elite offers sports performance training, camps and clinics, private lessons, and adult fitness and nutrition.

Look for the new EECU commercials featuring Derek and David to begin airing in July.

Congratulations to Our Grant Recipients

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2015 EECU Education Grant. Each recipient will receive \$2,000 to be used toward college education expenses. This is the 13th year that EECU has offered the Educational Grant Program to assist members with their higher education expenses.

We received 365 eligible applications, and a dedicated team of EECU employees, officials and member volunteers selected the recipients. The applicants were evaluated based on information provided in their grant application, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and transcripts. Several of the recipients this year are also past recipients of an EECU grant.

The grant recipients received special recognition at our Annual Meeting in June. Derek F. Scharton, chair of EECU's Board of Directors, and Beth Dooley, EECU president/CEO, presented each recipient with a certificate of achievement.

We congratulate the 50 grant recipients and wish them continued success in their field of study. Applications for the 2016 grant program will be available in October.

Garrett Bader, *Fresno, CA*

Anna Biesbrock, *Davis, CA*

Jennifer Cabrera, *Fresno, CA*

Marlena Celaya, *Dinuba, CA*

Chi Chang, *Fresno, CA*

Molly Coleman, *Fresno, CA*

Anita Dildine, *Tulare, CA*

Miranda Dunn-DiRedo, *Fresno, CA*

Taylor Ehresman, *Clovis, CA*

Nicole Funkhouser, *Lemoore, CA*

Kyler Gleason, *Fresno, CA*

Laurel Gomes, *** *College Station, TX*

Francisco Gomez-Alvarado,*
Philadelphia, PA

Miranda Gonzales,* *Lemoore, CA*

Timothy Green, *Fresno, CA*

Benjamin Griswold, *Fresno, CA*

Kaylee Gutierrez, *Fresno, CA*

Kylene Hashimoto, *Clovis, CA*

Andrea Hatai, *Fresno, CA*

Dale Heinrichs, *Fresno, CA*

Sally Hernandez, *Dinuba, CA*

Katelyn Herrera, *Kingsburg, CA*

Celeste Labiento, *Fresno, CA*

Marisol Lauri, *Fresno, CA*

Nicole Linman, *Kingsburg, CA*

Alejandra Lopez, *Berkeley, CA*

Ryan Martinez, *Kingsburg, CA*

Nickie Matus,* *Fresno, CA*

Ryan McVicar, *Clovis, CA*

Amanda Mireles, *** *Sanger, CA*

Melissa Mooradian, *Fresno, CA*

Nicole Otta, *Fresno, CA*

Monica Peterson, *Clovis, CA*

KD Pfaff, *Clovis, CA*

Heather Roth, *Grover Beach, CA*

Jennifer Schmidt,* *Corvallis, OR*

Sukhdeep Singh, *Fresno, CA*

Sydney Stout,* *Clovis, CA*

Taylor Sweet, *Lemoore, CA*

Nicole Takeda, *Fresno, CA*

Marisa Thompson, *Fresno, CA*

Riccardo Vallejo, *Fresno, CA*

Savannah Vang, *Fresno, CA*

Lucia Vazquez, *Visalia, CA*

Jackson Wagner, *Fresno, CA*

Holly Wilson, *Fresno, CA*

Melody Wise, *Exeter, CA*

Peter Yang, *Fresno, CA*

Jaclyn Young, *Fresno, CA*

Shayan Zoghi,* *Fresno, CA*



*Two-time recipient

***Four-time recipient

Sarah Koligian (Cont. from Cover)

"I saw how important it was for these students to learn English and learn it quickly to help them keep up with their academics," she says. That affirmed her decision to change careers.

"When I saw how hard these children worked to learn the language, I realized this was the right place for me to be."

Her seven years as a resource teacher were followed by several administrative positions for Central Unified. She culminated her 20 years with the district as the associate superintendent of Educational Services.

She left in 2007 to serve as the superintendent for Golden Valley Unified School District, where she led the district to high levels of academic excellence. In 2011, she took over as superintendent of the Tulare Joint Union High School District. She calls both experiences "absolutely incredible."

"As superintendent, it gives me an opportunity to be able to craft and implement a vision that can ultimately impact every student and staff member in my district," she says. "What gives me great satisfaction is that I am in a position in which I can shape the future of our education and community."

She sees earning a high school diploma as the first finish line for students in their educational careers. "I want to see every student cross that finish line with the ability to choose college or a career and have exposure to 21st century learning skills."

New to the Tulare district's educational opportunities is an improved focus on Career Technical Education through Linked Learning Pathways, which offers four academic pathways focusing on possible careers in agricultural sciences, engineering, pre-med, and digital and performing arts. The program introduces students to the various fields and even places them in paid and unpaid internships within the community. She says the program is popular, and student interest and excitement are growing each year.

She is also proud of the district's close ties to the Tulare County agricultural community. One endeavor that supports ag education is an enterprise farm and dairy that allows students to farm part of their 90-acre site growing wheat and corn and also a dairy operation raising cows and selling the milk to Land O'Lakes, an agricultural cooperative. In addition, the district's Future Farmers of America students perennially win many awards at local, state and national competitions.

Her district also partners with the College of the Sequoias Tulare College Center allowing students to earn college credit while in high school.

She says the district's philosophy is providing as many opportunities as possible to find paths for academic success. Another goal is teaching students "soft skills" – getting to work on time, honing communications skills, and completing tasks – to make them

productive and successful employees.

Sarah, who has been an EECU member for about 25 years, is grateful for the credit union's sponsorships and programs that support schools around the Valley. Educating students takes a community effort, she says.

"We really can't do it by ourselves. We need collaborations and partnerships, and EECU is at the top of that list."

She says Tulare residents are excited about the opening of an EECU branch in their town, which will enhance the credit union's presence in the community.

In her personal life, Sarah is married to Wayne Koligian, a retired Central Unified teacher and coach, who now works for Paramount Citrus in ag business development. The couple have four children ages 18 to 30. Sarah is a "fitness buff" and ran her first half marathon earlier this year. She and her family are active members of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church.

Balancing her busy professional and personal lives is something she relishes. "I'm most productive and happiest when I have multiple balls in the air."

Janet Ferguson

Director of the Human Resources and Training Departments

Janet Pavlovich Ferguson understands that employees in a positive work atmosphere with proper coaching, training and support are content and happy, and develop trusting relationships with members and co-workers.

“How employees feel about their jobs and their work translates into better services for our members,” she says.

The training and resources Janet and her team members provide reinforce a healthy work environment for managers and employees so that serving members’ financial needs remains the credit union’s core mission.

“We want to meet the business goals of EECU to maintain our financial strength while at the same time keep in mind that the members are the reason we are here,” she says.

As director of EECU’s Human Resources and Training Departments, Janet oversees and directs the recruiting, hiring, compensation, benefits, employee relations, and training functions within the credit union. Her role is to ensure that employees and managers are provided with the guidance and support to set them up for success.

From the moment employees begin their employment, they receive training to develop knowledge and skills to be effective, competent and confident.

“We want to create a positive member experience and to do that we focus on making sure our employees are well-trained and educated, and they have the proper resources available,” she says.

EECU also has several staff incentive programs that encourage healthy lifestyles and laud employees for their work. The credit union’s support of a healthy workplace and home life for employees was affirmed when EECU was honored with a 2014 Child-Friendly Business Award presented by First 5 Fresno County.

Janet began her nearly 23-year EECU career as a training specialist and eventually was promoted to HR/

training director, a position she has had for the past 10 years. She measures success in her role when she receives feedback from employees who have “aha” moments that connect to what she and her team have taught in a class or through resources they have provided.

“The most rewarding aspect of my job is when I know that I had some small part in making a difference for them,” she says.

Away from the office, she has a passion for interior decorating, collecting antiques and traveling, especially to the Central Coast and Bay Area. She is an avid sports fan, closely following NASCAR and IndyCar races, and the San Francisco Giants, San Francisco 49ers and Golden State Warriors. She also attends yoga and Pilates classes and volunteers her time with various organizations.

Janet cherishes spending time with her husband, Gary – they have been married 37 years – and their daughters and families, and her 17-month-old granddaughter, Sophie Grace. She absolutely loves her role as a grandmother.

“Seeing life through the eyes of a child is a precious gift,” she says. “It reminds me of pure innocence and keeps me grounded.”





Campaign Raises \$25,050 for Honor Flight

We raised \$25,050 for Central Valley Honor Flight during our May auto loan campaign! Thank you to our members who participated in the campaign to help send World War II and Korean War veterans to see their memorials in Washington, D.C. The next Honor Flight is scheduled for October.



Published quarterly by:
**EDUCATIONAL EMPLOYEES
CREDIT UNION**

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Fresno, CA 93755

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Thanks for Attending Our Annual Meeting

Thank you to all of our members who came out to the 2015 Annual Meeting on June 12.

The evening was filled with lots of fun, food, camaraderie and great information. Thank you, everyone, for your support!

