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**Vision** - All schools are vibrant, inclusive ecosystems that ensure every student thrives in school, work and life.

**Mission** - GSN co-creates healthy school ecosystems by partnering with educators, students, families and communities to elevate the education experience.

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### Good News!

#### **Summer Learning Flourished In Wiggins School District As Part Of Educational Stability Grant!**

Wiggins School District, with Generation Schools Network planning support, provided elementary and middle school students with four weeks of summer learning as part of their Educational Stability Grant. With the threat of COVID-19, advocates and teachers paid extra attention to the flow of events and social distancing for the protection of their students and families. Educators went above and beyond to transport students to and from school, which ensured a nearly 85% attendance rate among students! Although most of their time was spent on the school campuses, students also had the opportunity to take local field trips to the zoo, Jackson Lake, and a local restaurant where they were required to use their English language skills to order their meals. After witnessing the commitment of staff and community members and the success of this program in the midst of such challenging times, Student Advocate Adriana Carrasco expressed that the students were excited to attend school and to learn, and many of them did not want to leave after their lessons! She stated, "I'm really proud of my community. It's amazing what [we] can do when we want to help."



## Educators Continue Progress Toward Master's Degrees Despite Teacher Retention Budget Cuts



Recently, Colorado Dept. of Education announced a budget cut for all Teacher Retention grants for the 2020-2021 school year due to legislative budget reductions. While disappointing for all those who were participating in the programs, GSN was able to work with our partner Boards of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) including Southeastern, Santa Fe Trail, Northeast, East Central and San Luis Valley to ensure that all teacher candidates will all be able to complete their Master's degrees! With the plans and agreements in place, we will have teachers from East Central, Northeast, and San Luis Valley BOCES who will continue to move forward in the program at CSU-Global. With the support of Generation Schools Network and the University of Denver, these cohorts of teachers will be finishing up their Master of Science Degree in Teaching and Learning with a specialization in Math. Southeast and Santa Fe Trail BOCES cohorts will also have the opportunity to complete their Special Education Teaching and Learning Master's degree through Western Colorado University. This opportunity will allow teachers within each of these BOCES to not only continue their education but will also help support their schools and districts by strengthening Math and Special Education supports. We are so grateful for the support and creative planning from each BOCES in their efforts to build teacher capacity and increase teacher retention!

### Welcoming New GSN Staff and AmeriCorps VISTAs!

#### **Sarah Bommer - Alternative Accountability System Support Specialist AmeriCorps VISTA**

Sarah is a Michigan native that joined the GSN team in the Summer of 2020 as an Alternative Accountability System Support Specialist with AmeriCorps VISTA. She brings her skills in communication, web design, and event planning to the GSN team and her work on the Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP) through the Colorado Rural Education Collaborative (CREC). Sarah graduated from DePaul University with a B.A. in Communication and Media and a double-minor in Graphic Design and Spanish. She is passionate about strategic communications and plans to pursue a career in non-profit marketing.



#### **Yoni Gottlieb - Communications and Health & Wellness AmeriCorps VISTA**



Yoni is a Colorado native that recently joined the GSN team as a Communications and Health & Wellness Content Specialist with AmeriCorps VISTA. His varied background in public relations, scientific communication, content strategy, music and video production brings a large variety of skills and knowledge to the GSN team. His career goals include becoming an effective public relations specialist to help small businesses, non profits, and artists communicate their missions to a wider audience in a simple, accessible and interactive way.

**Helen LaFata - Product Development Manager**

Helen recently joined the GSN team as a Product Development Manager. Helen is a native Pennsylvanian who has worked as a choral director and private language tutor for seven years. She has extensive knowledge and experience in curriculum and product development, instructional design, and translation services. She is passionate about utilizing research-based techniques and multimedia tools to create dynamic learning experiences. Helen is proud to be offering Spanish translation, managing product development, and designing E-learning experiences for Generation Schools Network in order to widen the impact of our mission. Helen holds a BS in Music Education, is certified in teaching English as a Second Language and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education and is fluent in Spanish, Italian, and English.

