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To inspire each student to extraordinary achievement every day Sept. 19, 2025

To Staff and Our Twin Rivers Families,

Have you ever walked out of a room with stories of resilience and determination still echoing in your mind? That's exactly what happened to me earlier this week when I had the joy and privilege of hearing two remarkable young people—one a proud graduate of our district, the other a current senior—share their personal educational journeys. They were at the district office for a special signing ceremony marking our groundbreaking Sacramento K-16 Collaborative Data Sharing Agreement with Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento State.

One of the students, Tahira Slayman, a senior at Foothill High School, spoke with honesty and heart about her journey. Tahira came to this country as an immigrant, learning a new language, adjusting to a new culture, and navigating school as a first-generation student. Despite these challenges, she has shown remarkable courage, perseverance, and hope for the future. Through the district's <u>Dual Enrollment</u> program with American River College (ARC), Tahira has challenged herself academically, grown in confidence, and is now on track to graduate in 2026 with both her high school diploma and an associate degree—one of 29 Twin Rivers students we expect to graduate with associate degrees this school year.

We also heard from Maddy Her, one of the first two dual enrollment students in the district to graduate with an associate degree in 2023. She is thriving at Sacramento State and proudly shared that her younger siblings in the district are also participating in the Dual Enrollment program. Her story is a powerful reminder that the opportunities we create today can have a ripple effect on families and communities for years to come.

Hearing their stories left me reflecting on the talent, drive, and heart of our students, and the real difference programs like Dual Enrollment make in shaping their futures.

Our partnership with Los Rios and Sacramento State is building stronger bridges between K-12 schools, community colleges, and the university system. The recent signing ceremony wasn't just a formality, it was a celebration of the teamwork behind the scenes that helps our students thrive. Today, 870 Twin Rivers students are earning college credit through our Dual Enrollment program—116 are 9th graders, 231 are 10th graders, 267 are 11th graders, and 256 are 12th graders. Since 2023, nine TR students have graduated with associate degrees, showing the real impact of these opportunities. These achievements are a testament to the dedication of our teachers, counselors, and college partners, who guide students and give families a clear view of the exciting opportunities available to their children.

What makes this partnership so powerful is how it supports every stage of a student's journey, allowing colleges to follow their progress from K-12 through college and into the workforce. Through this coordinated system, students aren't just taking courses—they're part of a system that helps them plan ahead, build skills, and make the most of opportunities while still in high school. The agreement also includes student outreach about Los Rios programs and targeted academic support, ensuring students have guidance and resources every step of the way.

Simply put, our partnership with Los Rios Community College District and Sacramento State is about providing access and creating a stronger, more connected educational journey for our students—one that helps them see not just the next grade, but the bigger picture of what they can achieve and the paths they can take to reach their dreams.

School Zone Safety Reminder

When driving near schools, please take extra care—especially during drop-off and pick-up times, when students are arriving or leaving campus. Please slow down, watch for students walking, biking, or riding scooters, and always stop for school buses flashing red lights or stop arms. Pay close attention at crosswalks and areas around school zones. In addition, for the safety of our students and staff, all visitors must check in with the school office before entering campus. This helps us monitor who is on campus and ensures a safe, secure environment for everyone.

Around TR!

<u>Paraeducator Recruitment Fair</u> - 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25, 2025, at the District Office, 5115 Dudley Blvd., McClellan Park, CA 95652. We hope to see you there!

Warm regards,

Steve Martinez, Ed.D.

Superintendent, Twin Rivers Unified