MARCH

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HAPPY WOMEN’S DAY

ACUSD is honored to highlight some of the strong female leaders in our community

HERE’S TO STRONG WOMEN!
MAY WE KNOW THEM,
MAY WE BE THEM, &
MAY WE RAISE THEM
Who/What inspires you and why?

What inspires me is the courage and conviction of those who laid the groundwork for the position that I hold today, for what I am so honored and entrusted with serving and protecting, the community that I call home. I clearly see their vision in the fire service as being a fundamental part of the foundation of a thriving community and the importance of implementing the systems and structure necessary for all of us to live our best life.
What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?

Never give up. Create a strong foundation within yourself by surrounding yourself with excellence. Educate yourself by taking classes, reading books, studying history, and listening to lectures. Empower yourself by enlisting friends, family and mentors that will strengthen the conviction within yourself to become a leader in all phases of life. There is a statue that stands in New York City called "Fearless Girl". She began her journey through a sculpture and was installed in New York City on March 7, 2017 the day before International Women's Day. She was placed facing off the charging Wall Street bull. Hands placed firmly on her hips, face upright, leaning in with determination taking on the bull. Through a myriad of controversy, this will happen when you take on the bulls in life, She found her permanent place across the street from the New York stock exchange in the financial district of Manhattan in New York City as a symbol for women to continue to break through the glass ceilings in all walks of life. It is important when you are taking the bull by the horns to have the courage to compete. It is equally important to know when you are dealing with the other end of the bull and it is not worth your time or effort just pull on your boots and keep moving forward, it may get deep, ask for help when needed, be Fearless, hands on your hip, face upright lean in and never give up! Remember that being told NO, just means that you need to improve your argument.

What do you love about Amador County?

Amador County is my home! We pull together in times of strife, work together to overcome obstacles and our community becomes family. I have raised my family here and live my best life everyday in the beauty that surrounds us in our close knit and resilient County!
Meghan O’Keefe
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & TEACHING ARTIST
WITH AMADOR COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL
(AMADORARTS)
Who inspires me and why:
Madonna Thunder Hawk inspires me because of her commitment to indigenous youth and global environmental sustenance. Giles Turner inspires me because of his commitment to local youth and the artistic process. Donna Jackson inspires me because of her commitment to local youth and community service. Mr. Dalton (may he rest in peace), an English Teacher at Amador High in the 1990s, inspired me because of his commitment to local youth and the written word.

ADVICE:
Work harder than you can imagine. Be generous with your gratitude every step of the way. Be bold in your loyalty to your authentic self. Infuse everyday with listening, joy, and compassion. Always keep going, even when you want to give up. Celebrate little victories with your loved ones. Always remember how your past built your present. Rest and drink tons of water. Breathe.

What do I love about Amador County:
There are too many reasons to list. Amador County is the center of my heart and the foundation of my art.
Hailee Friss

3rd Grade Student at Ione Elementary School
Who inspires you and why:
My mom is my inspiration because she is an awesome mom and works really hard. She taught me how to be a hard worker. She taught me to never give up on my dreams and I can do anything I put my mind to.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
My advice to the next generation of female leaders is to never give up. Work hard and you will accomplish your goals.

What do you love about Amador County?
What I love about Amador County is the small town feeling and people are nice.
Who/What inspires you and why?
It inspires me when I see a teacher with students who are happy and engaged.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
It is important to speak your mind, but do it in a respectful way.

What do you love about Amador County?
I love the open spaces in Amador County.
Tori Moody

OWNER OF ABOUT YOU WEB DESIGN
AND CPU ONSITE COMPUTER SERVICES
&
TEACHER FOR AMADOR ADULT
EDUCATION
Who/What inspires you and why?
I am inspired to teach computer literacy to improve the WorkForce Skills of Amador county and to enable our seniors to thrive in a technology world. I am inspired by people of all ages who possess a determined spirit to succeed in the face of adversity or severe challenges when others are content to just survive. I am inspired by self-starters, people that create their own path and career, instead of accepting whatever life places before them.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
As a Business or Community Leader, align yourself with others that are open-minded and possess a strong desire to succeed as a team. Be diligent in matching your staff to their natural abilities, whether that be communication, technical, sales, or other. It is far easier to motivate someone toward success in a task that comes naturally to them. Above all, be true to yourself and your internal inspiration.

What do you love about Amador County?
I love the sense of community and fellowship. I love the people. I appreciate how people look you in the eyes and talk openly about their lives, hobbies, work, wishes, and dreams. This is generally a trusting community of people who genuinely care about each other. I love the beauty of the landscape. I also love the recreation options and the ability to explore the wilderness with a very short drive.
Who/What inspires you and why?  
Helping other women with their career advancement and getting more women on Corporate Boards

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?  
Be bold; own your destiny; network; servant leadership is powerful and drives success.

What do you love about Amador County?  
The environment with its rolling hills and majestic grape vines remind me of Tuscany. Hard working families bring the County alive.
**Who/What inspires you and why?**
I am inspired by Jesus every day and can’t imagine trying to do life without Him. I have also been inspired throughout my life by hard workers. My mom is a very hard worker. Raising five of us by herself, she sometimes worked three jobs at a time to make ends meet. That has inspired me to work hard and to be all that God intended me to be. I started working at 14 years old and have never stopped. I continually strive to improve and be better.

**What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?**
My advice would be to take personal responsibility, realize that you don’t have to do it on your own, you have Jesus to rely on, and stay humble. I truly believe that we are all one decision away from homeless and by knowing that no one is better than anyone else, you truly appreciate every one for who they are.

**What do you love about Amador County?**
I love the small town vibe in Amador County. I love the community and the care and support that we have for each other. I love the beauty of the county and that the entire community embraces the kids and the schools! There is no place I would rather be.
Who/What inspires you and why?
I am constantly inspired by my community. From the everyday random acts of kindness to the large gestures of support to those in need, because showing great care for others and expressing compassion is something we need greatly in the world right now.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
Follow your heart. Listen to it with care and don’t be afraid to fail. The times of greatest hardship offer the opportunities for greatest growth.

What do you love about Amador County?
It’s people, the landscape, and it’s rich history will always hold a dear place in my heart.
Erika Williams

Photographer, Owner of Erika Smith Photography
Who/What inspires you and why?
The person who inspires me most is my grandmother, Susan. She has always pushed me to do the things I thought I couldn’t. I am so lucky to have someone that always believes in me and to teach me that my voice is worth being heard.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?
Not everyone will take you seriously, and not everyone will want you to succeed. Take yourself seriously and you will succeed in anything you want to do in life. Raise your voice, if you want to be heard. You are worth being listened to.

What do you love about Amador County?
I love being able to walk through Sutter Creek, grab dinner at local restaurant, and admire the history and beautiful buildings we have here!
Coaches:
Morgan Roots,
Karissa Cabri,
Emily Weinzheimer,
and Cara King

All Argonaut graduates who have returned to their alma mater to coach girls’ basketball.
Who/What inspires you and why?

Coach Cara King finds her inspiration from her faith, stating that “Growing up as a Christian athlete, I’ve always played “For Him”. I often wrote it on my shoes or had a small note with it written in my bag. Jesus had been my inspiration not only in sports, but in life as well. He has helped me climb mountains, celebrated with me at the top, and been by my side in low valleys, too. I would encourage future female leaders to “...seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly...” (Micah 6:8).” Coach Karissa Cabri finds her inspiration from her mom (who has also been a teacher, coach, and mentor), and Coaches Morgan Roots and Emily Weinzheimer are inspired by the girls they coach.

What advice would you give to the next generation of female leaders?

The loudest leader isn’t always the one who makes the biggest impact, and when you’re someone with integrity, someone who always shows up, and someone who gives 100%, others will be inspired to follow your example.

What do you love about Amador County?

The coaches love Amador County’s traditions and community. They said that the community provides a wonderful support system, both in and out of basketball. At away games, they sometimes have more fans than the home team - and that says a lot! They know they can always count on the community for encouragement and support. Additionally, Coach Karissa Cabri touched on traditions: "I love that those in Amador County take pride in traditions, whether it's the rivalry game, homecoming, or knowing your neighbor's name. It's a place that you can either look back on or look forward to coming back because you know those traditions will always be alive."
Diane Wratten

IONE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER/ WORKER'S COMPENSATION CLAIMS SUPERVISOR, SACRAMENTO COUNTY
Who/What inspires you and why?

My first inspiration is and will always be my Father. He showed me the value of a strong work ethic and the importance of integrity. My Mother, like my Father, showed me the importance of strength of character and values. Today of all days, I must include Mary Wheat who showed me the strength I have both physically, mentally and that perseverance will always pay off.

What do you love about Amador County?

I love the small community ideals that are ever present in our county. We look out for our neighbors and everyone is our neighbor.