



Leadership Center

October 2023

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



Julie Zierold
Director, Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)
Riverside County Office of Education

Julie Zierold is the new Director of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) at Riverside County Office of Education. Julie is a remarkable educator and leader whose life journey is a testament to resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to empower others. Her career has woven into diverse experiences, but at its core is a profound dedication to creating equitable opportunities for every student.

Julie's journey in education began when she shifted her career trajectory from an initial pursuit of sports medicine to the world of teaching. Her pivot was inspired by an eighth-grade Physical Education teacher who recognized her potential as an educator. With a background of playing college basketball, Julie had a natural affinity for coaching and mentoring young minds. She found joy in influencing the lives of students, not just through physical education but also by imparting life skills and fostering personal growth.

Transitioning from teacher to Administration in the Perris Union High School District, Julie's leadership style was heavily inspired by her experiences as a former athlete. She understood the dynamics of teamwork and the importance of lifting others up to help them reach their potential. For Julie, being a leader meant having a profound influence on why educators do the work they do and making a positive impact on students.

Julie's leadership as a High School Principal initiated a cultural shift focused on genuine care for students, instilling a sense of purpose in the whole school community. This was where her passion for the pillars of

AVID evolved. One of the inspiring success stories in Julie's career was the impact of AVID on her students. By providing equitable opportunities and pathways, she empowered them to achieve their dreams. A former student that remains connected to Julie, became a professional football player with the Cleveland Browns, is just one of the testaments that she cultivates for enduring relationships.

Julie's professional journey led her to the role of Director for Riverside County's AVID team with a unique blend of servant and transformational leadership styles. She believes in building a cohesive team that recognizes each other's strengths, utilizing tools such as Strengthsfinder and Five Languages of Appreciation to understand and recognize the diverse talents of her colleagues.

In addition to her professional pursuit, Julie is an outdoor enthusiast who cherishes activities like hiking, biking, and kayaking. She also loves watching football, supporting the Cleveland Browns and Seattle Seahawks. Her passion for travel has taken her to some of her favorite places, including Ireland and Hawaii, where she had unforgettable experiences, including kayaking up to and swimming with dolphins off the Big Island.

Julie Zierold's story is one of transformation, perseverance, and a profound commitment to making a difference in the lives of students and colleagues. Her work as a Director of AVID for Riverside County will shine as she works to provide equitable opportunities for all students, preparing them to be "life-ready" in a world of shifting needs and opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EXECUTIVE WOMEN'S Leadership Convention

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
RCOE Conference Center



Bold Leadership by Damen Lopez
Monday, November 6, 2023
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
RCOE Conference Center - Board Room



The Riverside County Office of Education Leadership Center is honored to share with you varied opportunities to grow as a leader.

