



# COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** July 27, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Alison Lehman  
**SUBJECT:** Nevada County Youth Leadership Award for the NU Debate Team

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve award of Nevada County Youth Leadership Award to Evelyn Grandfield and Jacson Witt of the Nevada Union High School Debate Team and a certificate of recognition for their coach Stephen Goldberg.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:**

The County's Vision, Mission and Value Statements, as adopted by the Board each year – most recently on February 23, 2021 via Resolution 21-050 outlines the dedication to outstanding public service with the mission to work with the community to develop sound and innovative public policy, provide strong leadership and deliver excellent services in a fiscally responsible manner. The Nevada County Youth Leadership Award was established to recognize and elevate young people who demonstrate leadership through community service and exceptional accomplishments in the areas of the arts, academics, agriculture, athletics, music or a similar field. The awardee receives a Challenge Coin, a certificate, and public recognition by the Board of Supervisors.

The County Executive Office and the Board of Supervisors' office have recently collaborated to build out this program, developing a formal application process and website content to seek future applicants and promote youth leadership from the highest levels of county government.

Nevada Union High School Debate Team partners Evelyn Grandfield and Jackson Witt, and their volunteer coach, Stephen Goldberg have earned this award as a result of their achievements in debate, leadership among their peers, community service, and overall

dedication to excellence. The two recently competed in the Tournament of Champions (TOC) placing higher than any other team in the history of the program.

Evelyn Grandfield, a senior at Nevada Union, began policy debate in the junior high debate program at Seven Hills. As a novice debater freshman year, she defined her future in policy debate by “breaking” to the elimination rounds at her very first tournament and going on to win the Western Nationals later that year. By her junior year, she was teaching the debate class at NU while participating in every debate tournament possible, winning two tournaments that year and earning one “bid” to the TOC.

Evelyn was recently named No. 1 Valedictorian and top of her class at NU, with a stellar academic record. She was also named captain of the NU Varsity Water Polo Team after playing the sport for eight years. She is passionate about social justice and volunteering for those in need, and recently completed Crisis Intervention Training for victims of domestic abuse by Nevada County’s non-profit organization Community Beyond Violence. During her time at NU she was also active in Site Council and in the Social Justice Club. Evelyn has been admitted to Wesleyan University, where she plans to study Government and Environmental Sciences.

Jackson Witt has been involved in policy debate since the 5th grade. He currently teaches the high school elective at Nevada Union along with Evelyn. He is also instructor and director for the middle school debate program. His goal is to keep the debate program strong in Nevada County. His debate accomplishments include two-time NCFL qualification for the national tournament, semifinalist at the UNLV tournament, quarter finalist at the Alta tournament, and bid qualifier for the prestigious, coveted Tournament of Champions.

Jackson is also a three-year Varsity letter earner on the Water Polo and Swim teams. He competed in the Junior Olympics Water Polo tournament with his club team Sac Polo, and this year joined the tennis team. Jackson has a passion for music, and plays four instruments including guitar, bass, saxophone, and piano. He has played with the Nevada County Concert Band; Nevada Union’s symphonic, jazz, and combo bands; as well as a local youth rock band program. He served as NU Band Council’s Vice President. For his final year of high school, he will serve as the student board member for Nevada County Indian Education.

And finally, volunteer coach Stephen Goldberg, who was recognized by the Board of Supervisors in 2018 has just completed his 23<sup>rd</sup> year volunteering as NU’s debate coach. He drives from Sacramento each week to work with the team and has been an instrumental role model in these young leaders’ lives. The 2020/2021 school year was his most successful year coaching in all 23 years -- he took four total teams to the TOC.

More information about these three leaders and their accomplishments is included in the Supporting Documents file.

Item Initiated by: Sarah Holyhead, Administrative Analyst II

Approved by: Alison Lehman, CEO

Submittal Date: May 24, 2021  
Revised Date: July 6, 2021