



SPECIAL OLYMPICS UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

MARCH

UNIFIED EVENTS

We are hosting Unified events all across the state! If you are interested in hosting one or being involved there is no better time than now! Please reach out to us at evans@somo.org for any information!

HIGHLIGHTS

Carthage High School hosted an Inclusion Workshop for teachers around the state. We had 30 PE teachers, Special Education teachers, and Administrators attend to learn about Unified PE, Special Olympics, and Unified Champion Schools. Thank you Carthage for creating an Inclusive place for everyone!

Russellville High School recently held a Unified Basketball tournament where they had 3v3 and team skills teams compete!

Thank you to everyone for taking the Polar Plunge this season! It is really great seeing all of you Freezin for a Reason!

“Diversity is the mix. Inclusion is making the mix work.”

RESOURCES

Want to find more ways to engage your students with inclusion? Check out our Unified Classroom that has lessons on identity, teamwork, empowerment, leadership, appreciation, and so many more! All of the lessons have different grade levels, unified talks, with objectives and standards! www.generationunified.org/unified-classroom

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED?

We are back up and running at SOMO with events all around the state! With these events we are looking for volunteers! If you would like information on events you can volunteer at somo.org/volunteer/.

An inclusion revolution is a one day unified event where those with and without intellectual disabilities play together. The main goals are to break down barriers, educate students on the importance of inclusion, and provide a meaningful experience for all participants. These are meant to be whole school engagements and can even involve surrounding schools with their special education departments.

Young Athlete Programs (YAP's) are a great way to work with younger schools in your district. YAP is for those 2-7 with and without intellectual disabilities where we play games to work on motor and social skills, as well as introduce them to our sports that we offer year-round. We meet once a week and this can be done either during the school day, or after



Special Olympics Unified Schools

school. For more information or if you are interested please feel free to reach out to me, we are excited to help you get things started!

NATIONAL BANNER PROGRAM

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement and respect for all members of the student body and staff. A Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. These standards were developed by a national panel of leaders from Special Olympics and the education community.

The primary activities within these standards include: [Special Olympics Unified Sports®](#) (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole-School Engagement. Banner Unified Champion Schools should also be able to demonstrate they are self-sustainable or have a plan in place to sustain these activities into the future.

SCHOOL VISITS

I have been traveling the state visiting different schools and learning about all of the great things you are doing to promote inclusion. My goal is to provide you more information on the three standards and what more you can do to be on pace to achieve national banner status. If you would like to meet please reach out to me at evans@somo.org.

SCHOOL SURVEY

Please take a moment and fill out our survey so we can continue to serve you and your students creating a place where everyone feels welcome! <https://form.jotform.com/213266085825055>

SCHOOL SURVEY

St. Louis Metro Area - contact Jocelyn Diehl (diehl@somo.org) (314)-961-7755

March 19th State Basketball

April 2nd Volleyball

April 20th Jefferson county Local Track and Field

April 22nd St. Clair High School Track and Field

April 24th Area Soccer

April 29th Wright City Track and Field

April 30th Powerlifting

Central Area – contact Tim Schuster (schuster@somo.org) (573)-635-1660

March 5th Rolla Polar Plunge

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Missouri



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March 12th Columbia Polar Plunge

March 31st Unified Champion Schools Disc Golf Tournament- Eldon

April 19th Track and Field Waynesville

April 23rd Central Area Track in Columbia

April 26th Hannibal Track and Field

April 28th Unified Champion Schools Track Meet at TLC

Kansas City Area - contact Alyssa Cress (cress@ssomo.org) (816)-535-9610

April 2nd Aquatics meet

April 23rd Track Meet

North Area – contact Alyssa Cress (cress@somo.org) (816)-535-9610

March 5th Kirksville Polar Plunge

April 23rd Kirksville Track and Field

April 27th North Area Aquatics

April 30th Track Meet Savannah

Southeast Area – contact Scott Williams (swilliams@somo.org) (573)-339-6733

Southwest Area – contact Jana Fornelli (fornelli@somo.org) (417)-624-5505

March 5th Springfield Polar Plunge

April 2nd Powerlifting

April 12th Track and Field at Carthage High School

April 27th Area Spring Games Clever High School

April 29th Area Spring Games Carl Junction High School

MESSAGE FROM ME

I want to thank you all for everything that you do for our SOMO Athletes. It is with great sadness that March 21st will be my last day with SOMO. I have spent the last three years with the organization and it has been nothing but meeting amazing people and working with the greatest athletes in the world! Growing up through Special Olympics in school it is my passion trying to get students to have that same experience that I had. I cannot thank you enough for helping give your students that same experience.

**Special
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Missouri



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Good news is we are leaving you in good hands! Krista Evans will be taking over UCS and working with you all. Krista has served as the Health and Wellness Manager for Special Olympics Missouri for the past two years. Krista Graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Human Development and Family Science and minor in Sociology in 2017. Prior to SOMO, she worked as a Site Facilitator at Adventure Club, a before and after school program in Columbia Public Schools. She is excited to be a part of the UCS program, and looks forward to bringing many of our programs to your school!

Please feel free to reach out to Krista at evans@somo.org with any questions or to welcome her!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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