



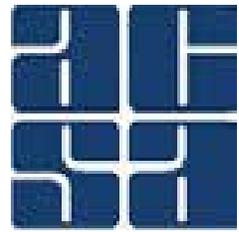
As you read through this newsletter, keep an eye out for this icon. It is meant to point out benefits you receive as a result of your ACSA membership — professional development, networking, leadership opportunities, and more.



'LEADING FROM THE INSIDE OUT' MID-STATE CONFERENCE
PAGE 7

STUDENT/ASSOCIATE CHARTER MOCK SPEED INTERVIEWING
PAGE 12

REGION XI MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE 'SCHOOLS TO WATCH'
PAGE 14



REPORTER



ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS • **REGION XI** • www.regions.acsa.org/11/

NEW!

We're mailing this hard copy of our newsletter to you, in addition to all the digital delivery methods we've used in the past. Let us know what you think.

kathleen.forsythe@sbcbglobal.net

State ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith visits Kern County, Region XI

Region XI was honored to welcome State ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith to Kern County Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 28 and March 1. On Wednesday evening, at a reception at The Padre Hotel in Bakersfield, Region XI members were given the opportunity to meet, and speak with Smith, who also made a few remarks to the group.

With the Parkland shooting still fresh on everyone's mind, he said, "Amidst new standards, the new dashboard, crazy politics, people campaigning for state offices ... we had a shooting in Parkland. We have to make sure kids feel safe, engaged, and that they're learning. It's such an awesome responsibility that you have. On behalf of the ACSA board, I want you to know that we love and care about you and we want to stand by your side as you make a difference in your students' lives. If there's anything we can do to serve you, count us in."

Smith/6



Left to right: Matt Torres, Kim Carlson, Matt Diggle, Rebecca Rocha, Wes Smith, Leslie Garrison, Jasmine Bassilious and Erick Rouanzoin.

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Membership Scoreboard

Remember, membership is everyone's business. Member-to-member recruitment ensures that ACSA remains the authoritative advocate for all matters pertaining to education and its leaders.

Each One ... Reach One
Recruitment Tip:
Contact those members who have left your organization.

Welcome New Members

East Kern Charter

Steven F. Martinez

Executive Director
Ridgecrest Charter

Recruited by: Karen Greenhaw

Clair L. Rhea

Learning Director
Golden Hills

Recruited by: Regina Green

Tulare Charter

Wayne Lacy

Info Systems
Tulare County Office of Education

Recruited by: Craig Wheaton

Irene Ortega

Community Engagement
Burton

Recruited by: Sharon Kamberg

Tulare Charter continued

Nicole Rocha

Admin. Ed. Opt.
Tulare County Office of Education

Recruited by: Guadalupe Solis

West Kern Charter

Monica Marruquin

Admin. Corr.
McFarland Unified

Recruited by: Valori Park

Michelle A. Maxwell

Core./Sp. Ed.
Kern High School

Recruited by: Mell Holly

Charter	Jan. 31, 2017	Feb. 28, 2018	+/-
East Kern	81	82	+1
Inyo/Mono	26	29	+3
Kings	122	130	+8
Tulare	477	517	+40
West Kern	337	337	-
CSUB Student	16	23	+7
Unassigned	2	5	+3
TOTAL	1061	1123	+62

Kim Paz, Visalia Unified, and David East, Reef-Sunset Unified, are leading our recruiting efforts with four each. Be a leader and recruit one member this month. State ACSA will send you a \$25 voucher for each person you recruit and the person who recruits the most members in our region this year will win a prize!

Four academies will be offered within Region XI in 2018-2019



The Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) provides a full range of academies to meet your needs as a school administrator, confidential employee or classified manager. Because ACSA represents all members of the school management team, it can help you build the administrative and leadership skills needed in your current job, while preparing you to take advantage of career advancement opportunities.

Region XI is pleased to announce that four academies will be held within the region, enabling its membership to attend without having to travel long distances. Academies being offered within Region XI include Human Resources and Curriculum Instruction in Tulare County, and Sustaining Continuous Improvement and Special Education in Kern County.

2018-2019 academy program information and registration will be available at www.acsa.org/Educational-Services/Academies in late April.

ACSA members are encouraged to apply for professional development scholarships to help defray costs of attending an academy. Contact your charter president to apply.

Did You Know?

AN ACSA REGION XI PUBLICATION

Dr. Donya Wheeler, President

David Tonini, Executive Director

Kathy Forsythe, Director of Communications

1611 W. Laurel Ave., Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 627-3619

Email: kathleen.forsythe@sbcglobal.net

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President's Message

“Spring is a time to find out where you are, who you are, and move toward where you are going.” – Penelope Trunk

As we round out another academic year, it is amazing to me the amount of dynamic people we have working toward meeting our region goals. The energy is certainly noticeable. It has been an honor to serve as your region president. I have learned so much through this process from you. It has been an unforgettable year.

Goal 1:

We will increase Region XI involvement with state and local legislators.

ACSA's recent endorsement of Marshall Tuck for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) encouraged our region to invite the candidate to our April board meeting. We are fortunate that Tuck will be attending, as he values his partnership with school administrators throughout the state. ACSA interviewed the leading candidates for SPI, and of those candidates, Marshall Tuck demonstrated the best understanding and appreciation of the complex role of school administration in California. Tuck's vision and policy platform are consistent with ACSA's student-centered mission.

See Wheeler/4

West Kern Golf Tournament set for April 7

The 15th Annual Ordiz-Melby District Cup Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, April 7 at Sundale Country Club in Bakersfield. The event is sponsored by ACSA West Kern Charter and raises funds for scholarships. Lunch, generously provided by Colombo Construction, will be served at 11:30 a.m. Shotgun scramble starts at 12:30 p.m. Team entry fee: \$380 (four-person team). Individual entry fee: \$95 (we will place you on a team). For more information and to sign up, contact Terry Wolfe by email at bernardwolfe@aol.com or by phone at 661.565.2773.



Bring your class to CALM

CALM hosts more than 20,000 students, educators and parents who visit the zoo on organized field trips every year. A discounted rate for school groups is \$4 per child and \$6 per adult. These fees include zoo admission, a wildlife program with a CALM staff and a reserved pavilion area for lunch or snack.

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To schedule a field trip, or for more information, please contact Jordan Reed at **661-871-1883** or email joreed@kern.org.



www.CALMzoo.org

10500 Alfred Harrell Hwy • 661/872-2256



Wheeler

Continued from page 3

ACSA's endorsement of Tuck certainly challenges the traditional education narrative in Sacramento. We cannot continue to complain about the status quo while continuing to elect leaders who will protect that same status quo. We look forward to working with Tuck to find solutions and make needed changes to public education that continues to leave California's school system and students behind. We look forward to hearing from Tuck in person at our April 5 meeting and posing critical questions to him so that our region can get to know the candidate better.

Goal 2:

We will increase support from top administrators to build meaningful involvement for members and districts.

In addition to the multitude of charter conferences offering premier professional development and networking socials, we surveyed our region to develop a tentative plan to offer region academies for the 2018-2019 academic year. During 2017-2018 our region hosted Curriculum & Instructional Leaders

Academy in Visalia and Principals and Special Education Academies in Bakersfield. The most highly requested academies for next year include the continuation of the Curriculum & Instructional Leaders and Principals Academies, Supporting and Sustaining Continuous Improvement, and Technology for School Leaders. As our region moves forward in planning these academies, we will be sure to communicate specific details.

Goal 3:

We will increase accessibility of information and visibility of ACSA brand to all members.

A big thank you to our Director of Communications, Kathy Forsythe, for catapulting our region in this area. Kathy has set up Facebook (ACSARegion11) and Twitter (@acsa_11) accounts, along with posting region updates to the ACSA app. Our social media presence has vastly increased this year, along with the ACSA Reporter which is published quarterly. Many of our region members are now accessing legislative updates and education news through these sources which they did not have access to before.

Dr. Donya Wheeler, President, ACSA Region XI
dwheeler@exeter.k12.ca.us, 559.592.9421, ext. 9102

Are you a
Leadership
Delegate?

When all delegates for your Charter attend the Leadership Assembly, your Charter benefits in the form of a cash reward. But, more important, are the benefits for you personally. Exciting and informative things happen at Leadership Assemblies, along with networking opportunities. Make plans now to attend the last Leadership Assembly for 2017-2018, 8 a.m., at Hodel's Restaurant in Bakersfield on April 5.

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Comments from your Executive Director

Our primary focus as an association is to speak for the students in California. On April 16 we will speak for California students. ACSA members from

throughout California will walk the halls of the Capitol advocating for additional time to determine whether to keep a teacher by increasing the probationary period to three years and enacting a plan to increase state funding per pupil to at least the average of state funding per pupil nationally. You can participate. Let your charter president know you would like to represent your charter at Legislative Action Day. Your travel and lodging will be paid by the region/charter.

One of the goals of the region is to connect with state legislators. That has happened. Charters and the region have met

with legislators who represent our region, listening to their thoughts, sharing our concerns and advocating for students. As a result of a meeting in Kings Charter, Assemblyman Andy Vidak said he will be sending a representative from his office or he will be attending all future meetings to listen and address concerns in the legislature.

At the last region board meeting, ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith addressed the board followed by Delaine Eastin, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction and current candidate for governor. Marshall Tuck, the candidate ACSA has endorsed for State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will address the Leadership Assembly in April.

In May, we honor Region Administrators of the Year, Region

See Tonini/9

Mentors
provide
support for new
administrators



The ACSA Mentor Program links an educational leader, new to his or her position, with an experienced, skilled, dedicated, and confidential mentor. Like so many other professions, educational leaders need someone they can call upon to help them through the trials and tribulations of their first and second year in a new position. Whether you're interested in finding a mentor or serving as a one, go to www.acsa.org/Member-Services/ACSA-Mentor-Program for more information.



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Tim Hire: "I believe the county office exists to serve the schools and the school districts."

Candidates for Tulare County Superintendent of Schools speak to Tulare Charter

Three of the four candidates for Tulare County Superintendent of Schools — Tim Hire, Tony Velasquez and Craig Wheaton — shared their visions for the future of the Tulare County Office of Education at the Tulare Charter meeting on Friday, Feb. 16 at Apple Annie's in Tulare.



Tony Velasquez: "The Tulare County Office of Education is a service support structure. I'd like to make it a leadership support structure."



Craig Wheaton: "We need to take a moment to acknowledge that Mr. Vidak did great work. I want to build on his legacy."

Smith

Continued from page 1

That morning, Smith met with the Kern County superintendents. He had high praise for the superintendents of Kern

- I thank you for focusing
- on our region and
- giving us your time.

— Dr. Blanca Cavazos
Region XI State Director

County who work collaboratively to solve issues that prevent students from receiving the education they deserve. In the afternoon, Smith met privately with Mary Barlow, Kern County Superintendent of Schools; Bryan Schaefer, Kern High School District Superintendent; Doc Ervin, Bakersfield City School District Superintendent; and Blanca Cavazos, Taft Union High School District Superintendent and member of the ACSA State Board of Directors. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how ACSA can best serve and attract administrators in Kern County and specifically, in the two largest districts in the county — Bakersfield City School District and Kern High School District, which are also the largest districts in the state to serve their grade span. Excellent recommendations were made by the superintendents. The ACSA Member Services team will be following up on the recommendations.

"This meeting was two years in the making because of scheduling conflicts and other extenuating circumstances," said Cavazos. "We are delighted to finally have our ACSA Executive Director in Region XI." He shared that he had made many visits to Kern County in his youth because his aunt and uncle lived in Bakersfield. "Although it has changed a lot in the intervening years, I am glad to be back," he said. Facilitated by Cavazos, these meetings were considered a rousing success. "Everyone was completely focused on what Wes was saying," Dr. Cavazos said. "I know it made an impact on the groups he met with."

- Our influence at the
- capital has never
- been greater.

— Wes Smith
State ACSA Executive Director

Smith began his day Thursday with a visit to the West Kern Charter. He told the group that the focus of ACSA is working together to benefit students and that they do that through their membership. "It starts here, at the charter level. The more involved you are at the charter level, the more say you'll have at the region level and so on up to the state level."



Left to right: Leianne Scott, John Werner, Wes Smith and David Bowling



Left to right: Craig Wheaton, Kathy Forsythe, Donya Wheeler, Lisa Horne, Melissa Christman, Bonny Porter and Kirsti Smith



Jason Hodgson, left, and Marv Davisson

He asked members to join ACSA in changing the conversation around education. He said that typically the conversation is dominated by the interests of adults and special interest groups. "As you talk to folks about why they should be part of this movement, tell them California needs to put its students at the front of every conversation related to public education," he said.

Smith finished up his visit to Region XI by addressing the Region XI Board Meeting. He talked about the year-long effort by the State Board to develop a new strategic plan. "The old one was really aggressive and worked very well, but it's time for a new one," he said. Much effort has been put into

See Smith/22

Educators focus on ‘Leading from the Inside Out’ at Mid-State Conference

Organizers of this year’s Mid-State Conference chose to put the focus on the social and emotional well-being of both educators and students. Featured speakers Kelli Rizzi, Joelle Hood, Terry Deal and Trudy Arriaga all followed this theme, bringing a their own spin on the subject.

In its third year, the conference was held St. Patrick’s Day weekend at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Luis Obispo, presented by ACSA Regions 9, 10, 11 and 13,



Trauma Informed Practices help teachers and students to be better regulated.

- Rizzi

As a prequel to the conference, Kelli Rizzi, Director of School and District Support with the Shasta County Office of Education, presented a workshop about Trauma Informed Practices. Rizzi has been trained through Dr. Bruce Perry’s Trauma Academy in the Neurosequential Model of Education. Rizzi explained that Trauma Informed

Practices are the link to academic achievement and social/emotional success for students who’ve experienced toxic stress and trauma. She shared methods and practices to help teachers and students be better regulated in order to decrease behavior issues and open the mind for learning.

Randy Bangs, conference chairman, opened the conference at dinner Friday evening. ACSA President Lisa Gonzales welcomed the crowd and introduced ACSA-endorsed candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) Marshall Tuck. Gonzales and Tuck sat down for an informal town hall-style interview. Members of the audience were able to submit questions via their electronic devices, which Gonzales then posed to Tuck, along with some previously prepared questions.



ACSA President Lisa Gonzales interviews ACSA-endorsed Gubernatorial Candidate Marshall Tuck.

True to her goal to include family in ACSA activities, Gonzales called upon her twin daughters, Landry and Kennedy, to pose one question each to Tuck. Tuck said he believes public education should be the top priority, that California has neglected education for decades. He proposes a 10-year plan to bring education back to



Featured Presenter Joelle Hood led the audience through exercises designed to increase mindfulness.

where it was prior to the passage of Prop 13. “A lot of people blame our educators for the challenges in our public schools. Teachers did not underfund their classrooms. Principals and superintendents did not smother their schools and districts in red tape,” Tuck said. As SPI, Tuck sees it as his responsibility to represent the interests of educators and students to state legislators and the governor.



Mindfulness is paying attention, on purpose, in the present moment, without judgement.

- Hood

Joelle Hood was the featured presenter for the evening. She is an advocate for youth and is committed to incorporating social emotional learning into schools so that they can help prepare students to become the best that they can be, and help make the world a better place at the same time. Her presentation for the evening focused on “mindfulness,” particularly as it pertains to the social and emotional health of educators. She walked the audience through several exercises designed to increase mindfulness and empathy. “Empathy is a learned skill and a choice. When you communicate with empathy, it turns me into we,” she said.

Nearly 30 breakout sessions were offered throughout the day on Saturday. With so many choices, there was something for everyone. “The sessions were good and relevant to the current climate in education,” said Traci Minjares, Principal, Cummings Valley Elementary School in Tehachapi. “I enjoyed connecting with other administrators outside my district.” Kings Charter’s President Rodney Brumit, Principal at Lemoore High School, brought members of his staff to present a session on building resilient students. They explained

See Mid-State/8



Lemoore High School Principal Rodney Brumit and his team presented a breakout session about how they're building resilient students at their school. Left to right, Lemoore Union High School District Board Member John Droogh, Assistant Principal Nicole Moore, School Psychologist Kris Saavedra, Brumit, Assistant Superintendent Victor Rosa, School Psychologist Chelsea Bowling, and Superintendent Debbie Muro.



Mid-State

Continued from page 7

how Lemoore High School implements a system that provides intervention and support to all students, creating an environment of respect, responsibility and resiliency. Presenting with Brumit were Assistant Principal Nicole Moore and School Psychologists Kris Saavedra and Chelsea Bowling.

ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith opened the second general session with a brief ACSA update. "The power of ACSA is in the collective strength of its members," he said. "ACSA is focused on two things — benefitting the kids of California and serving you, the members of ACSA."

The featured speaker for the second general session was Terry Deal, award-winning educator, author and international consultant to business, health care, military, educational and religious organizations. The focus of his presentation was leading with soul. He explained that capitalizing on and nurturing employees' soft skills — being a good coach, community well being, empathy, critical thinking, being able to make connections — are what make a successful organization.

In a message directly aimed at educators, he said, "Any of you could go into a corporate office, you could do the work, you'd probably make much more money, but you'll never ever make the difference that you do."

Saturday afternoon, the ACSA Government Relations Team took time to discuss legislative issues they are currently addressing. Michele Borges, Principal at Mission Oak High School in Tulare, attended this presentation and found it very informative. "Not only does the Mid-State Conference give me a chance to network and learn from other leaders throughout California, it provides an opportunity to hear from our ACSA Government Relations Team to learn about the most recent areas of focus in California legislation," Borges said.



The bottom line is not the bottom line. The bottom line is tertiary.

- Deal

Throughout the day Saturday, attendees were encouraged to visit the conference partners/exhibitors and have their bingo card signed off. All completed bingo cards were entered into a drawing for prizes provided by the partners/exhibitors: Atkinson, Anderson, Loya, Rudy & Romo - A Professional Law Corporation, Lozano Smith, VALIC, 95% Group Inc., Horace Mann, Get More Math, ParentSquare, AXA, Brandman University, Curriculum Associates, Greenfield Learning, JTS Modular, Inc., Imagine Learning, McGraw Hill Education, Jump Into English, OnPoint, Moore Education Resources, Teacher's Pension, and Generation Ready.

Saturday's activities culminated with a reception to which all attendees were invited. The reception was sponsored by ParentSquare and hosted by Region XI's Executive Director David Tonini and his wife Ann.



John Cosner and Dr. Bonny Porter presented a breakout session about how they are collecting and using data to change school culture in their Ridgecrest middle schools.

Six more breakout sessions were offered on Sunday morning, one of which was presented by East Kern Charter President Dr. Bonny Porter and John Cosner. Porter is the Principal of James Monroe Middle School in Ridgecrest, and Cosner is Assistant Principal of Murray Middle School, also in Ridgecrest. They explained how they are collecting and using data to change school culture. Cosner expressed his enthusiasm for the conference as a whole this way, "The experience was a tremendously refreshing way to spend time with brilliantly successful leaders more than willing to help others on their journey."

ACSA Vice President of Legislative Action Terri Rufert opened the final general session and introduced featured speaker Dr. Trudy Arriaga, who has focused her life work on the fundamental belief

See Mid-State/9



Mid-State

Continued from page 8

that the educational system has tremendous capability and responsibility to open doors for all students. She



It's about connecting, belonging, succeeding.

- Arriaga

she said, "It's all about that inside out approach — how we notice those students that are disenfranchised and how we respond." She really drove home the point that students and families

should never have to give up one ... two ... or all of their identities in order to belong.

Region XI thanks David Bowling, Matt Diggie, Terri Rufert and Dr. Donya Wheeler who represented the region on the conference planning committee.

Tonini

Continued from page 5

scholarship winners, the Region Every Student Succeeding Award, and the Itzenhauser/Schlagel Honoree in Bakersfield.

Congratulations to the leaders of our new Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter. Their first sponsored event — Mock Speed Interviewing for Aspiring Administrators — was March 14. Representatives from eight districts did mock interviews with future administrators. President Rory Collinwood, Vice President Nancy Nauman, and Secretary/Treasurer Karen Ruiz, were the charter leaders, along with university stakeholders who organized the event.

Plan to attend an ACSA academy next year. Four ACSA academies will be offered in the region:

- Curriculum Instruction - Visalia
- Human Resources - Visalia
- Special Education - Bakersfield
- Sustaining Continuous Improvement - Bakersfield

All principals and aspiring principals should consider attending the UCLA Leadership Institute June 25-29 for Aspiring Principals and June 24-29 for Principals.

In closing I would like to recognize Liberty Middle School in Lemoore and Fruitvale Junior High School in Bakersfield for being recognized as Schools to Watch, representing the best middle schools in California.

David Tonini

Executive Director, ACSA Region XI

davidto02@comcast.net, 559-280-6228



Above left:
John Werner and Brandi Spray

Above:
Left to right, David Tonini,
Lisa Horne, Terri Rufert, Angela
Martinho, Michele Borges and
Luis Cabarruvias

Right:
Left to right, John Cosner,
Bonny Porter, Steve Bsharah,
Jeanette McDonald, Traci
Minjares and Regina Green





Gubernatorial Candidate Delaine Eastin addresses Region XI's March meeting.

Region XI hosted Delaine Eastin at March meeting

D'laine Eastin brought her campaign for governor to Region XI's March meeting. Vice President of Legislative Action Craig Wheaton introduced Eastin as "a friend of education ... a friend that goes back with our region a long way." Eastin opened her presentation by saying, "Developing a whole new general of educational leaders is the most important thing we need to do." She continued on to say that California must move spending per school child from the bottom 10 in the nation to the top 10. Besides education, she explained that the environment and civil rights round out her platform.

- Budgets are state-
- ments of values,
- and I want California's budget to reflect the values and priorities that built our great state.

— Delaine Eastin
Candidate for Governor

Academic focus key to Tulare Charter Annual Conference's success

Award-winning educator, author and consultant Dr. Timothy Kanold was the Keynote Speaker at Tulare Charter's Annual Conference, Tuesday, Feb. 27 at the Visalia Marriott. His inspirational message explored the nature of teachers' mathematical heartprint and how to evaluate it. He shared five intentional research-affirmed teaching strategies teachers can use every day to help students persevere and sustain their effort in the mathematics



Vivian Hamilton, Tulare Charter President-Elect and Annual Conference Committee Chair, left, and Yolanda Valdez, Tulare Charter President.

of the lesson — unit after unit. To explain how one can pursue a positive heartprint in their personal and professional



life, Dr. Kanold shared a quote by comedian Michael Jr. — "When you know your why, your what has more impact, because you are walking in and toward your purpose." He said one's heartprint is the distinctive impression and marked impact your heart leaves on others.

Prior to Dr. Kanold's presentation, attendees enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar, while visiting vendor booths who gave out tickets for drawings held at the close of the evening. Special thanks to major contributors Buckman-Mitchell Inc., Educational Employees Credit Union and Horace Mann Companies, and sponsors American Fidelity, Brandman University, Delta Dental, Greenfield Learning, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Imagine Learning, Pearson Education, Tulare County Federal Credit Union, and Uplevel.

Above: Left to right, Tulare Charter President Yolanda Valdez, Dr. Timothy Kanold and Lucy Van Scyoc, Past President.



West Kern Charter Mixer, “Appy” Hour

West Kern Charter’s Mixer and “Appy” Hour featured a presentation by Stephen Johnson, Panama-Buena Vista Union School District Ed Tech Specialist and Curriculum Coordinator, entitled “Fostering Anytime, Anywhere Professional Learning with Social Media and G Suite.” The event was held at La Cabana Restaurant in Bakersfield on Thursday, Feb. 15. Attendees enjoyed appetizers and beverages while networking with fellow administrators.



Above left: Left to right, Stuart Packard, Troy Witham, Gerri Kincaid, Lauren Mawson, Steve Johnson, Diane Taylor, Kevin Silberberg, Rocio Muñoz, Richard Morosa, Ty Bryson, Brad Grumbles, Dustin Haycock, Stephanie Haycock, and Shelly Tiffin. Above right: Stephen Johnson during his presentation.

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More than 30 aspiring administrators participated in the Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter's Mock Speed Interviewing event held at Brandman University on Wednesday, March 14.

Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter's Mock Speed Interviewing event a huge success

The Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter received great feedback from both sides of the table following their Mock Speed Interviewing event held on Wednesday, March 14 at Brandman University in Visalia. About 15 representatives —



- I thought it was very beneficial to hear the type of questioning that would be asked at an administrative interview, so I can prepare.

— Elizabeth Alvarez
Teacher, Highland Elementary

administrators and Human Resources personnel — from eight Tulare and Kings county school districts got a sneak peak at potential administrators.

“It was a great opportunity for aspiring future leaders in education to polish their interviewing skills and network with current administrative leaders, said Sharon Cronk, Principal at Pioneer Elementary School in Hanford. “It was the hope of the interviewers to inspire these future leaders to gain confidence in their abilities to take the next step in their educational career path. I was honored to be part of this event.”

“It was a great opportunity for aspiring future leaders in education to polish their interviewing skills and network with current administrative leaders, said Sharon Cronk, Principal at Pioneer Elementary School in Hanford. “It was the hope of the interviewers to inspire these future leaders to gain confidence in their abilities to take the next step in their educational career path. I was honored to be part of this event.”



See Mock/13

Mock

Continued from page 12

More than 30 aspiring administrators rotated through three six-minute mock interviews, answering questions and receiving feedback. Participants were encouraged to bring and leave resumes. When not being interviewed, participants had the opportunity to network in the holding room, where food and drink were provided.

"This event was organized exceptionally well," said Philip Pierschbacher, Assistant Superintendent, Personnel, with the Tulare City School District. "The level of professionalism and enthusiasm demonstrated by candidates was excellent, clearly demonstrating our students are (and will be) in great hands!"

Stakeholders in attendance included Doug Bartsch, Fresno Pacific, and Sonia Gutierrez-Mendoza, Brandman University.

Participating districts included:

- Tulare City School District
- Cutler-Orosi Unified School District
- Lemoore Union Elementary School District
- Visalia Unified School District
- Sundale Union School District
- Tulare County Office of Education
- Pioneer Elementary School District, Hanford
- Lindsay Unified School District



- This was a beneficial experience, to be able to sit down and actually speak with someone I would be interviewing with.
- Each interviewer had a different style and gave very specific feedback.

– Ben Bolin

Social Emotional Learning Center

Golden West High School & Valley Oak Middle School



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Region XI schools earn Schools to Watch designation

Two Region XI middle schools are among the 22 high-performing California middle schools which have been recognized in the 2017-18 Schools to Watch — Taking Center Stage program. Bakersfield's Fruitvale Junior High School and Liberty Middle School in Lemoore, along with 20 others join 24 previously-chosen schools whose sustained progress allows them to retain their Schools to Watch designation.

These high-performing model schools demonstrate academic excellence, social equity and responsiveness to the needs of young adolescents. For example, Fruitvale Junior High School in Bakersfield has created an outstanding forensic medical science program, allowing students to experience science hands-on and use their skills of analysis, inquiry and observation.



Luis

Fruitvale Junior High School is lead by Principal Leslie Garrison and Vice Principal Erick Rouanzoin. Ben Luis is the principal of Liberty Middle School.

The Schools to Watch program is sponsored by the California Department of Education, California League of Middle Schools and the California Middle Grades Alliance. To earn this designation, schools must complete an extensive application that is reviewed by middle grades experts. In order to retain the designation, each school is re-evaluated every three years. For more information about the program, visit www.clms.net/stw.

Get to know Fruitvale Junior High School (FJHS) leadership

Tell us about the career path that lead you to your present position.

- **Principal Leslie Garrison:** Prior to teaching I was in children's ministry. When my own children started school I began my teaching career as an 8th grade mathematics teacher in the Rosedale School District. While at Rosedale I served as the administrative designee and participated in the Principal's Academy to prepare for a future administrative position. While teaching, I had a unique opportunity to move into a Superintendent/Principal position for a small rural school district outside of my hometown of Taft. I served two years in that capacity when I was offered an administrative position in the Fruitvale District. I have been at FJHS for the past 10 years. During that time we have received recognition as a California Distinguished School (2013), Gold Ribbon School (2017), and now a School to Watch (2018). I am grateful for my path and honored to work with such an incredible district, school staff and community.
- **Assistant Principal Erick Rouanzoin:** Prior to getting into education I worked as a police officer for the City of Long Beach. I left law enforcement to help at-risk youth in a Title 1 school site. I taught history and created the first Tier3 Positive Behavioral Support Class in Orange County. I had connections in the Bakersfield area and when I saw an administrative position available in Fruitvale I jumped at the chance. This is my second year as assistant principal and I am excited for the future of FJHS.

What advice would you offer other schools which would like to achieve this designation?

Garrison and Rouanzoin: The program is rigorous and the application process is well defined. Schools begin with a self-assessment exercise in which all staff con-



Rouanzoin and Garrison

tribute perspective on the school's success in four focus areas — Academic Excellence, Organizational Support and Processes, Social Equity and Developmental Responsiveness. Our advice is to examine your results, determine if you are at a level to celebrate, and seek the best practices within your school that other schools can replicate. Finally, celebrate your accomplishments!!! Your staff, students and community are

making an impact on kids and that is worth recognizing! Then, be sure to visit other schools which have achieved this designation and attend the conferences. The schools recognized are exceptional. In the short time of our designation we have already visited and gleaned valuable practices that we intend to incorporate into our campus for continued improvement.

What is the most rewarding part of the work you do.

Garrison: The most rewarding part of what I do is building relationships that foster learning and growth. I relish in connecting with staff members, supporting them in their lives and careers, and in-turn, impacting student success. The best part of my day is talking with students, making genuine connections, walking them through the most confusing stage in their lives, and seeing them recognize their worth.

Rouanzoin: The most rewarding part of my work is making an impact on an entire campus. Junior High can be one of the most difficult periods of time for the socio-emotional and behavioral health of students. In my role, I have the opportunity to walk students through this time of growth, impact their decisions for the better, and connect them to caring staff.

How has your ACSA membership helped you accomplish your goals?

Garrison: ACSA members are the most valuable aspect of membership as they are all exceptional leaders and professionals. The connections and friendships are invaluable. ACSA has many other facets of support that I have taken advantage of — financial advice, car insurance, legal advice and professional development! I am grateful for my membership!

Rouanzoin: ACSA members are a group of professionals that I can learn from and lean on. As I am new to the area, ACSA has been a great resource, not only in the wealth of knowledge of the members, but the connections to the community.

Tell us about your family and what you enjoy doing in your free time?

Garrison: My husband and I have a blended family; we have three children in college and one in pre-school. We are a very athletic family which likes to ride bikes, swim, snorkel, and remain active. My husband and I especially love to travel. We are headed to Europe soon to cruise the Rhine River and explore the surrounding countries.

Rouanzoin: My wife and I have two-year-old twin daughters with a third girl on the way in June. I love being a daddy of all girls. We spend our warm days in the pool and we love to travel.

Leg Action Day messaging will focus on teacher tenure and increasing base funding

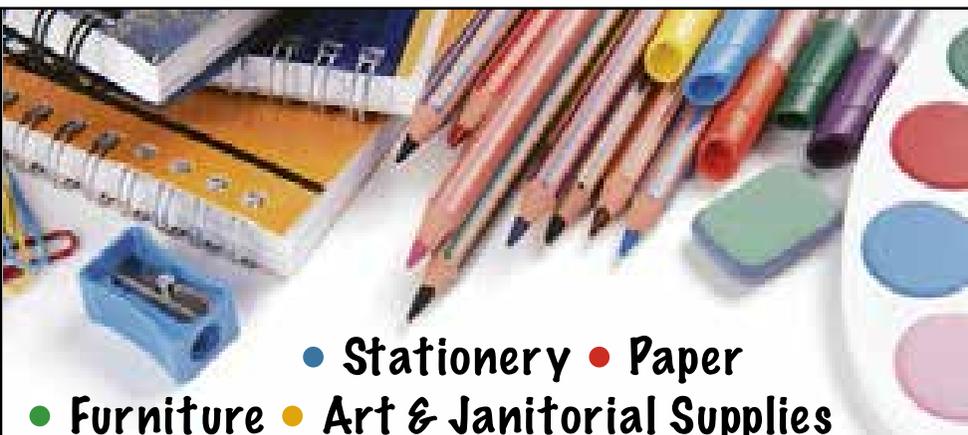
The ACSA Board of Directors met in Garden Grove on Friday, Feb. 16. State ACSA Vice President Linda Kaminski reported on the work done by the Finance Committee, which has adopted a conservative and realistic budget process. Revenues have increased over last year and mid-year budget revisions have been made. The Rainy Day Fund is on target and should reach \$500,000 by the end of year. ACSA is now reviewing the budget in the same transparent manner as school districts. Although ACSA currently has more than 17,000 members, there is concern that this is the first time in five years that there has been a dip in membership.

Legislative Action Day is scheduled for Sunday and Monday, April 15 and 16, in Sacramento. The messaging for Legislative Action Day will focus on two topics: Increasing the base funding and adding time for teacher tenure review. The goal is to disseminate real stories about how these topics impact students. Although school safety is on everyone's mind, this topic will not be a

focus during Legislative Action Day due to concerns that lobbying on school safety may not be substantive during this event. Instead, State ACSA President-Elect Holly Edds will be leveraging a new task force to address this issue. During the Legislative Action Day event, Senator Mike McGuire and Karen Stapf-Walters will be recognized with the ACSA Friend of Education Award. McGuire was unanimously recommended for the award because of his coordinated efforts to provide funding, clothing and other resources for students and families affected by the California fires. Stapf-Walters has previously worked for ACSA and is one of our own. She advocates for students on the State Board of Education and in her work as an aide to Governor Jerry Brown.



See Cavazos/16



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The ACSA website already provides a wide variety of information about ACSA, and the many ways

Did You Know ?

the association serves its members, and by extension, the 6.2 million school children in California. Each ACSA member now has a secure member profile listing that allows them personalized access to

Congratulations!

Carli Hawkins

Assistant Principal
Green Acres
Middle School
Visalia Unified
School District

Winner of \$200 in ACSA's Member Profile Contest

the website and the many benefits provided by their membership. Once logged in, members will have access to Members Only benefits, resources and news. Soon, ACSA will use it to communicate with members from the ACSA website and members will be able to easily register for upcoming events and career development opportunities. Eventually, there will be the ability to send or receive messages to and from colleagues without listing an email address or other sensitive information. To explore your member profile, go to www.acsa.org/member-login.

Councils, committees offer opportunities to get more involved

ACSA's effectiveness in shaping education policy at both the state and federal level lies in its grassroots strength. To that end, ACSA is structured with issue-focused committees and job-alike councils made up of education leaders. In Region XI, the following committee/councils will have open positions next year:

- Business Services Council
- Human Resources Council
- Member Services Council
- Retirement Committee

Go to <https://www.acsa.org/About-Us> to view descriptions of each of council/committee and contact information if you would like to learn more. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, contact Region XI President Dr. Donya Wheeler, dhwheeler@exeter.k12.ca.us, 559.592.9421, ext. 9102.

Did You Know ?

Cavazos

Continued from page 15

The board held an extensive discussion regarding language clarification of policy 6.11.1, the election of officers. The primary question is, "How do we ensure that candidates have an equal opportunity to campaign when running for state ACSA office?" The current regulations and policies on campaigning are vague and force candidates and the board to interpret the rules. In the current and previous campaigns for office, some candidates have been active in serving on boards, committees or councils and/or in presenting at ACSA-sponsored events. These candidates have had to limit their participation while campaigning so as to not gain an unfair advantage over their competitor, who will then have less exposure to the ACSA membership. After much debate, the board voted to edit policy 6.11.1 clarifying that while campaigning will be limited, service and participation in ACSA activities will not. The board also directed staff to bring back recommendations for the next meeting to clarify campaigning and associated prohibitions.

A discussion was held regarding the endorsement of Marshall Tuck for Superintendent of Public Instruction. The discussion focused on two areas: Region procedures and feedback from the activity at the Leadership Assembly. As a result, the Governmental Relations (GR) team will roll out a hybrid communication plan that will focus on members and the general public, through sharing of internal talking points, external talking points, a presence on social media and our website, the utilization of the press (opinion/editorials, press releases, etc.), continuing to provide opportunities for Tuck to engage with our members through ACSA-sponsored events and by creating and providing informational materials for region use. The ACSA GR department will improve communications by providing a timeline to all regions so officials know what is going on and when. They will also explore different ways and forms to conduct advocacy communications activities. In regard to the gubernatorial race, we

should have a clearer picture of who is really in the race this summer. Staff has suggested that the board wait until then before considering an endorsement for a candidate. The GR staff recommends that regions begin discussions regarding the gubernatorial race. A timeline will be distributed to regions so members are clear on the process.

The National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) Executive Director Tom Armelino presented an update on the activities of the association. The ACSA Board of Directors approved NASS's articles of incorporation and adopted bylaws changes that are reflective of ACSA's bylaws. The new bylaws outline that the current ACSA Board of Directors is the NASS board and would meet at least twice per year. The NASS/ACSA executive committee would be the same. ACSA Board of Directors approved the recommendation to establish a NASS Superintendents Committee similar to ACSA Superintendents Council.

ACSA's One Voice for Students Platform was shared. Our priority areas are: School finance, educator effectiveness and pipeline, Special Education, and student needs. Some highlights include: Ensuring the full funding of Proposition 98, setting a new LCFF multi-year target, mitigating the impact of pensions, protecting Title II funding, extending the teacher probationary period, advocating for the reauthorization of IDEA, and expanding access to behavioral and mental health services.

The development of ACSA's strategic plan was also discussed. The board reviewed the timeline and accomplishments of the four Core Planning Group (CPG) meetings. There will be additional work conducted by the CPG at the May Leadership Assembly in Sacramento. By mid-June, the CPG will develop a final draft for implementation and the board will receive the draft final version at the July retreat.

Dr. Blanca Cavazos

State Director, ACSA Region XI

bcavazos@taftunion.org, 661.762.2330

State Assembly

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Franklin Bigelow
Republican

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DISTRICT 8

Tom Berryhill
Republican

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Region XI Legislator Visits

Region XI and its charters are making great strides toward achieving their goal of increasing involvement with state and local legislators.

FEBRUARY

Kings Charter

Andy Vidak

*California State Senator
District 14*

Tulare Charter

Tim Hire

Tony Velasquez

Craig Wheaton
*Candidates for Tulare County
Superintendent of Schools
Tulare County Office of Education*

MARCH

Region XI

Delaine Eastin

Gubernatorial Candidate

Murray Middle School

Ribbon Cutting

Jean Fuller

State Senator, District 16

Kevin McCarthy

U.S. Representative, District 23

DISTRICT 14

Andy Vidak

Republican

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Hanford CA 93230
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Jean Fuller

Republican

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DISTRICT 22

Devin Nunes

Republican

<https://nunes.house.gov/>

DISTRICT 23

Kevin McCarthy

Republican

[https://kevinmccarthy-house.gov/](https://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/)

United States Senate

Dianne Feinstein

Democrat

<https://feinstein.senate.gov/>

Kamala Harris

Democrat

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Paul Cook

Republican

<https://cook.house.gov/>

DISTRICT 21

David Valadao

Republican

<https://valadao.house.gov/>

Donating to ACSA PAC is a great way to support the work that ACSA is doing across the state. Go to www.acsa.org/donate to learn more.

Region XI Calendar

APRIL 2018

- 5** **7:00 AM**
West Kern Charter Board Meeting
Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 5** **8:00 AM**
Region XI Leadership Assembly
Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 7** **11:30 AM**
West Kern Golf Tournament
Sundale Country Club, Bakersfield
- 11** **3:00 PM**
Tulare Charter Every Student Succeeding Reception
VUSD Board Room, Visalia
- 13** **7:00 AM**
Tulare Charter Board Meeting
Apple Annie's, Tulare
- 15 and 16** **2-DAY EVENT**
Legislative Action Day
Sacramento
- 20** **7:00 AM**
Kings Charter Board Meeting
Brandman University, Hanford
- 23** **5:30 PM**
East Kern Charter Board Meeting
The Clarion Inn, Ridgecrest

- 25** **11:30 AM**
West Kern Secretary's Day Luncheon
Stars Restaurant and Theater, Bakersfield
- 30** **5:00 PM**
Inyo/Mono Charter Board Meeting
Bishop

MAY 2018

- 3** **7:00 AM**
West Kern Charter Board Meeting
Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 3** **9:30 AM**
Region XI Leadership Assembly and Awards Luncheon
Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 4** **7:00 AM**
Kings Charter Board Meeting
Brandman University, Hanford
- 4** **5:00 PM**
Kings Charter Social & Election
Dowd's Cabana, Hanford
- 4** **5:30 PM**
Tulare Charter Spring Recognition Dinner
Whitney's Wild Oak Ranch, Exeter

- 9 and 10** **2-DAY EVENT**
State Leadership Assembly
Sacramento
- 10** **5:00 PM**
West Kern Charter Spring Mixer
Temblor Brewing Company, Bakersfield
- 11** **7:00 AM**
Tulare Charter Board Meeting
Apple Annie's, Tulare

JUNE 2018

- 7** **5:30 PM**
West Kern Charter 2017-2018 Awards Banquet
Coconut Joe's Banquet Hall, Bakersfield
- 11** **12:00 PM**
Region XI Executive Board Retreat
TBD
- 12** **8:30 AM**
Region XI Planning Retreat
TBD

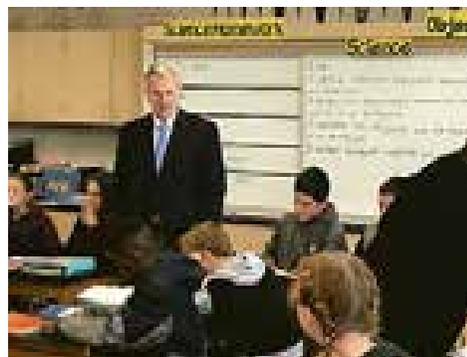


Senator Andy Vidak interacts with those in attendance at Kings Charter's February meeting.

Kings Charter hosts Senator Andy Vidak at February meeting

Administrators in attendance at the Kings Charter February meeting at Brandman University in Hanford, enjoyed an excellent discussion with Senator Andy Vidak, who sits on the Education Committee in Sacramento. Subjects covered included social emotional education, special education funding, willful defiance/expulsions, pre-school, the teacher shortage and how social media is affecting students. "It's a whole culture that none of us have any idea about and are not equipped to deal with," said Bobby Peters, Director of Educational Services, Hanford Joint Union High School District. The senator thanked the group for the information and said, "From just what I heard today, sometimes we're battling about things that are not even addressing what you guys are talking about. What I have learned here today will make me a better committee member."

Kevin McCarthy and Jean Fuller attended ribbon cuttings for Murray Middle School and Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest



Did You Know?

Regular ACSA membership gives you access to an experienced legal team, knowledgeable about protecting your due process rights. ACSA advocates have a proven track record in resolving work-related concerns before they become a lawsuit. Call ACSA's Ontario office at 800.608.ACSA. All calls are confidential unless ACSA is asked to take some action on the member's behalf that requires the involvement of others.

Charter Chat

Tulare Charter

Dr. Timothy Kanold's message to educators in Tulare County was excellent. Over 150 people attended the event. The feedback from attendees validated the timeliness and relevance of the topic. Everyone left with a tidbit to implement the next morning. Our Charter is in the midst of preparing the Annual Retirement and Recognition Dinner May 4 at Whitney Ranch in Exeter. Dr. Anthony Martin, candidate for Tulare County Superintendent, and Senator Andy Vidak will be addressing the charter at their meeting in April. The deadline for Student scholarships was March 9. We received 17 applications.



Yolanda Valdez
Tulare Charter President
Superintendent
Cutler-Orosi Joint Union
School District

East Kern Charter

In an effort to actively involve local legislators in education, members of East Kern Charter have made an effort to invite local legislators to their school sites. U.S. Representative Kevin McCarthy and State Senator Jean Fuller attended ribbon cutting ceremonies at Murray Middle School and Burroughs High School in Ridgecrest on March 2. State Assemblyman Vince Fong is scheduled to visit Faller Elementary School in Ridgecrest on April 13. He will help hand out awards during the Faller Character Counts Awards Ceremony.

Twenty East Kern Charter members — 10 in the Ridgecrest area and 10 in the Tehachapi area — will receive special

recognition in the form of a site visit from East Kern Board Members who will present the selected member with a \$25 Amazon gift card.

On April 23rd, East Kern Charter will hold their Awards Ceremony, where we will recognize 11 administrators for their leadership. Recognized members will be presented with an engraved golden apple. Student scholarships will also be awarded during the ceremony. We are proud to report that seven of the 11 administrators being recognized were selected by Region XI for consideration for the California Administrator of the Year in their respective categories.



Dr. Bonnie Porter
East Kern Charter
President

Principal
James Monroe
Middle School
Sierra Sands
School District

West Kern Charter

West Kern Charter embraced the region goals and aligned our efforts to increase membership by holding events to support networking and provide relevant professional development opportunities to our members. This year the charter conducted an online survey to give our members a voice in the monthly professional development opportunities we bring to our charter meeting. Due to the interest of our membership in G-Suite, our networking social held at La Cabana on Thursday, Feb. 15 included a presentation by Steve Johnson, from Panama-Buena Vista Union School District, on the use of Google Docs and YouTube to benefit teachers

See Charter Chat/21

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Urban Education Committee

▶ Bakersfield City School District has been working with ACSA on the following bill, which has been endorsed by the Suburban School District Association:

AB3149, Substitute Teachers; Days of Service by Asm. Monique Limon, a former trustee in CALSSD-member district Santa Barbara USD. This bill was just brought to our attention and we think it helps resolve an issue. AB3149 would permit a person authorized to serve as a substitute teacher pursuant to regulations, to serve as a substitute teacher for as long as the teacher of record is on leave. The bill is sponsored by ACSA.

Dr. Diane Cox
Urban Education Committee Representative

Small School District Committee

▶ The Small School District Committee met on Friday, Feb. 16. The committee reviewed and discussed a variety of topics including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1 - Concerns surrounding the new credentialing requirements for administrators (assessment requirements, cost, etc.)
- 2 - Review of the Superintendent's Symposium, at which the Small School sessions were well attended. Discussion was also conducted around next year's topics.
- 3 - Committee Chair Don Clark (termining out) emphasized the

need to make sure to keep a powerful and meaningful voice on behalf of Small School Districts.

4 - There was discussion around ACSA's support of Marshall Tuck for Superintendent of Public Instruction (the how and why).

5 - West Ed (Ayele Dodoo) presented on the California Standards Implementation Matrix and the four domains — Instructional Leadership, Challenging Standards, Quality Curriculum and Effective Assessment. The tool was designed to accelerate the implementation of the California State Standards in districts and schools.

6 - Information from Ivan Carrillo, regarding priority areas at the Leadership Assembly — Pensions, Extended Substitute Times in the Classroom, the 3 -Year Probationary Period Proposal, Willful Disobedience - AB 430, and Budget.

The next meeting will be Friday, May 4 at the Sacramento Office/ Web Ex.

Steve Tsuboi
Small School District Committee Representative

Middle Grades Education Council

▶ The Middle Grades Council met Thursday, March 8 in Sacramento. A presentation of the California School Dashboard was made. Questions were asked about how to use it to have valid, forward moving conversations with staff. Looking at the distance from 3 was stressed. The Dashboard is for an overall discussion with community members, staff and stakeholders. Demographics re-

ports are used to work with sub-groups. The following questions were asked and will be taken back for clarification and further exploration.

- What is the definition of chronic absenteeism?
- Will participation rate and other indicators be updated?
- Can Social Emotional be addressed through the Dashboard information?

Best practices were shared regarding SBAC preparation and positive spins on the process to help the students be less stressed and take the tests seriously. Many great ideas were given to help students succeed.

Laura Preston presented information about various bills in the process of being introduced and formulated, including cannabis, teacher miss-assignments, tenure, and increased time allowed for substitutes to be in a classroom.

Educational Options spoke regarding the programs designed to "break the cycle."

There was some discussion about brain maturation.

We discussed topics for the November Leadership Assembly.

Trauma informed classroom management was a hot topic.

This was an excellent meeting with lots of sharing and excitement about the future of education.

We are looking for ways to be sure every middle school administrator can be informed about the content of each Middle Grades Council meeting.

Kirsti Smith
Middle Grades Education Council Representative

Superintendency Council

▶ Conversations and discussions during Superintendent Council meetings this year have centered upon the future of school funding legal / legislative updates, and educational trends impacting us all.

The ACSA Governmental Relations staff provided an overview of the findings from a study regarding the future of LCFF. Both quantitative and qualitative information was obtained from approximately 200 superintendents from across the state. The key findings from research included the following:

- The need for a higher LCFF base funding grant
- The restraint from creating new categorical programs
- The impact of Pension and Special Education costs

The Superintendency Council has engaged in conversations with Deputy Counsel for State Board of Education, in providing input on the development of the state's system of support. The superintendents have stressed the need for resources and staying away from compliance focused activities.

The council has also held many discussions on the professional needs or trends in education, and how ACSA can support and move forward in these areas:

- 1) Funding and finance
- 2) Teacher Shortage
- 3) STRS and PERS Increases
- 4) Sustainability of Instructional Technology
- 5) Social Emotional Vulnerability of Students

Tom Addington
Superintendency Council Representative

See Committee/Council/21

Continued from page 19

and promote instructional collaboration among professionals. During our March Charter meeting, Lynnda Martin from American Refuse provided ideas, resources, and advice on steps schools can take to increase recycling efforts and reduce trash in our landfills. Efforts are underway to recognize West Kern Charter members in the coming months through a blended concept of in-person visits and online highlights on social media (Facebook), our website and in our newsletter. We have ten students who are receiving scholarships from our charter this year, and we hope more members take part in our annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 7 to help raise more funds for these students. Charter members are encouraged to nominate administrators for our Annual Awards Banquet in June. Nomination form can be found at www.acsa.org/About-Us/Awards-Program. The deadline for West Kern nominations is Thursday, April 5.



Rocío Muñoz
West Kern
Charter President

Assistant Superintendent
Educational Services
Richland Union
School District

Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter

The Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter held their annual event on Wednesday, March 14 at Brandman University in Visalia. The event provided future administrators the opportunity to participate in three “speed” mock

interviews. Each participant was able to answer two to four questions related to administrative positions and receive feedback to improve their interviewing skills and administrative knowledge. We had a great panel of 12 interviewers representing districts and school sites across the Valley — from Hanford, Lemoore, Lindsay, Porterville, Sundale, Tulare City, Tulare County Office of Education, and Visalia. There were 30+ participants, meaning over 90 interview opportunities. As we look to the future, we hope to provide more networking and administrative skill building opportunities for our student and associate members within the Tulare/Kings County area. The Student Charter would like to thank the local stakeholders and Region XI members for all their insights, support, and promotions which helped us create a successful professional development and networking event/opportunity for aspiring administrators.



Rory Collinwood
Tulare/Kings
Student/Associate
Charter President

Teacher
El Diamante High
School
Visalia Unified
School District

ACSA's Grassroots Advocacy Theme is Educate, Then Advocate. Download your Toolkit at https://www.acsa.org/application/files/8515/0471/8897/Grassroots_Advocacy_-_Toolkit.pdf

Continued from page 20

Legislative Policy Committee

Following is a list of the positions taken by the Legislative Policy Committee on legislation that is either strongly supported by ACSA or has been a matter of extensive discussion:

- **SB 607**
Pupil discipline: suspensions and expulsions: willful defiance
Position: Oppose UA
- **AB 2808**
Education finance: local control funding formula: funding increase
Position: Co-Sponsor

- **AB 2121**
Pupil instruction: coursework and graduation requirements: currently migratory children
Position: Support

- **AB 3149**
Substitute teachers; days of service; renewal of permits
Position: Co-Sponsor

- **AB 2386**
Teacher credentialing; services credential with a specialization in occupational therapy or physical therapy services
Position: Oppose

Jose Morales
Legislative Policy Committee
Representative

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Ambassador Program

Lead Ambassador's Report

Did You Know?

The Ambassador Program helps new members navigate ACSA's vast structure, while providing that first and very necessary human contact — giving the organization a face and a name. Region XI has seven Charter Ambassadors:

East Kern:

- Elaine Janson
ejanson@ssusd.org
- Beverly Thompson
beverlyjean22@sbcglobal.net

Inyo/Mono:

- Don Clark
dclark@esusd.org

Kings:

- Bill Black
lemoore.black@gmail.com

Tulare:

- Tom Giampietro
tomgiampietro@comcast.net
- Robert Aguilar
visaliainvestment@gmail.com

West Kern:

- Terry Wolfe
bernardwolfe@aol.com

At our recent Recruiters and Ambassadors Meeting, Margie Cuizon, State ACSA Senior Director, Member Services and Support, shared that their goal for 2017-2018 is 300 new members. She said the current retention rate is 89% once a member joins. The big concern for this year is the loss of 600 members from San Diego Unified. Because of budget issues, that district no longer pays dues for their administrators. Cuizon also explained the various membership dues options that are available.

The attendees were divided into groups and asked to address the following:

What are the barriers to recruiting?

Some of the barriers listed include:

- Cost for young administrators
- Superintendents not supportive
- Job pressures – too much on their plate
- Not getting new member names from HR
- Competing with costs for a clear admin credential
- Cost of Academies
- Lack of knowledge of membership benefits

What are solutions to the problems?

- Offer dual membership – transition plan – tiered levels for new administrators
- Tier membership fees while getting clear credential
- Need more one-to-one contact
- Ask new administrators what they expect of ACSA
- Need more support from districts
- Grow Ambassador and Recruiter numbers
- Region programs to invite new members to become active

- Regions form committees and communication between membership chairs, recruiters, and ambassadors
- Outreach to superintendent

Staff provided a tour of the ACSA website and several suggestions were made to improve access and usability.

There was a review of the Mentor Program and some of those in attendance described what was happening in their regions/charters. We were told that regional facilitators communicate with all applicants and match protégés with qualified mentors. It was suggested that this process be shared with leaders across the state.

Midyear recruitment winners — Penny Fraumeni, Charlene Lemons-Shivers and Ann Kitty — were announced.

Information about ACSA's Targeted Assistance Program was shared. The program focuses on providing direct support for school district superintendents in three key areas: Effective board-superintendent relations, labor relations/negotiations, and school bonds/facilities. For more information, go to www.acsa.org/targeted-assistance-program.

Jack Danielson, Regional Executive with Horace Mann, gave a presentation on helping to bring resources to the classroom and helping new teachers and administrators with student loan debit and increasing student attendance. For more information, he can be contacted by phone at 530-8964-3793 or by email at www.horcemann.com.

Bill Black

Lead Ambassador, ACSA Region XI
lemoore.black@gmail.com

Smith

Continued from page 6

getting input from all ACSA members; adding equity and diversity has been a priority.

Other subjects Smith spoke about included:

- Legislative issues: Education spending, teacher probationary period and extending the time substitute teachers can stay in the classroom, which, he said, originated in Region XI.
- Rethinking the way ACSA is doing professional development — perhaps more online.

- Creating an intentionally-better communication structure to create a true communication loop between the state, regions, charters and individuals.
- Figuring out a way members can participate without jeopardizing their day jobs because of long distance travel.

Smith closed by telling everyone about the new ACSA Resource Hub, which premiered with resources for the walk-outs planned by students surrounding school safety and gun legislation, and related issues. The hub offers information about many subjects, from research on kids' media use to transgender rights. It can be accessed by going to the ACSA website, www.acsa.org, and clicking on the Resource Hub button.

Did You Know?

Ambassador Program

New ACSA members win gift cards in Ambassador Program drawings

Kings Charter

February

- **Marcelo Huizar**
Vice Principal
John Muir Middle School
Corcoran Unified School District



Huizar

What inspired you to become an administrator?

The main reason for becoming an administrator is that I want to help teachers and students to learn and achieve to their highest potential. I believe in each and every student's ability to succeed and our role as administrators is to fully support our students in academics and in their social skills.

Why did you join ACSA?

I joined ACSA because I wanted to be part of a professional support network that will allow me to grow in my new administrative role. Being part of an organization such as ACSA is great way to remain informed on current legislation as it pertains to education.

What is the highlight of your year thus far?

The highlight for me this year is simply the positive relationships I've made with students, staff and parents. Being new to the district/site is a challenge in itself, but remaining open and having a positive attitude has resulted in a great experience for me.

March

- **Veronica Pelayo-Morales**
Assistant Principal
Armona Elementary and Parkview Middle School
Armona Union Elementary School District



Pelayo-Morales

What inspired you to become an administrator?

I simply wanted to do more for students, especially for the disadvantaged. As a teacher, I really could only help the students enrolled in my classroom, but I wanted to help more students. I felt inspired by my professors in the Fresno Pacific Administrative Program and realized that the way to help make positive changes is through an administrative position.

Why did you join ACSA?

I've heard great things about ACSA and wanted to connect with others. It is by connecting and having conversations with others that great ideas are born.

What is the highlight of your year thus far?

I was translating during an assembly for 2nd and 3rd graders. As soon as I began speaking in Spanish, a little girl got up and yelled out that she too knew Spanish. I will never forget how proud she was to be bilingual.

West Kern Charter

February

- **Lourdes Lule-Licea**
Coordinator II
Migrant Education
Kings County Superintendent of Schools



Lule-Licea

What inspired you to become an administrator?

I was fortunate to have taught kindergarten, intermediate grades, bilingual education, Jr. High and High School English for most of my career. But, I also found myself volunteering in extracurricular activities before school, during lunch and after school, along with supporting administrators with supervisory tasks. I realized that I really enjoyed administrative tasks; however, I always viewed the administrative positions as very challenging and an impossible endeavor for myself until I met Mercedes Boles, a Bay Area administrator. She encouraged me to pursue my masters and credentials in administration because she believed in me and my leadership skills to fulfill a position as an administrator. She pointed out how much I loved working with children, parents, teachers and the community and that I was making a difference in a wider spectrum outside the classroom. I admired her administrative leadership and saw her as a role model, coach and friend. I began to believe that I could lead with respect, kindness and love because I enjoyed listening and helping children, parents, and teachers.

I joined ACSA because I view this organization as empowering an administrator with 21st century skills and knowledge to lead other educators. ACSA has made a tremendous impact on me professionally and continues to do so with networking for administrators who are genuinely invested in the best interest of every child. I am encouraged by the support that is provided to new administrators like me. I am excited and humbled to be part of ACSA which provides a plethora of opportunities.

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What is the highlight of your year thus far?

I have always worked within a district as a teacher and administrator, but this is the first administrative position in which I have the opportunity, pleasure and challenge of working with various districts to support and advocate for migrant children from the county office of education, ensuring children receive ample services in academics. This year I have seen academic gains achieved in their STEM Saturday and Extended programs, but the joy from their smiles is unmeasurable.

ACSA members have access to a wide range of vetted tools and resources from ACSA's partners, as well as receiving the award-winning publications EdCal and Leadership Magazine.

Did You Know?



*Success is
liking yourself,
liking what you do,
and liking how
you do it.*

-Maya Angelou



Membership is open to school employees,
students, members of school organizations,
and their families.

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