



# COMMUNICATOR

Volume 51, Number 1

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS REGION 18

Summer 2021

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## Region 18 President's Message



Juan Cruz, Superintendent  
Heber Elementary School District

As we look ahead to the coming year, we must look back at the unprecedented challenges and unknown obstacles that we overcame.

We, the leaders of ACSA Region 18, along with the support of State ACSA, came together in our respective work environments to advocate for and create access for our students. This was only possible through the dedication and collaboration of our ACSA colleagues. ACSA Region 18 could not be more thankful and proud of our school leaders.

Moving forward, I ask that we continue with the same spirit of working together in addressing the inequities that have existed for so long and have now been exposed. We know that learning will remain a challenge for many of our students, and while we seem to have addressed the notion of access, it is upon us to focus on the quality of instruction, minimize learning loss, and ensure that our work as leaders supports the physical and emotional well-being of all students.

In ACSA region 18, we must continue to do what we do best "work together for our students!"

Let's seize the opportunity we are being provided and make this coming school year an amazing one.

Welcome Back!

Juan

## 2021-2022 Region 18 Leadership

### Cabinet Members

President - Juan Cruz, Heber Elementary School District  
 President Elect - Joy Ceasar, El Centro Elementary School District  
 Immediate Past President - Amanda Brooke, Imperial County Office of Ed  
 Vice President for Committees/Programs - Joan Faus, El Centro Elem SD  
 Vice President for Legislative Action - Ben Churchill, Carlsbad Unified SD  
 Service Director for Communications - Jeanette Montano, Imperial COE  
 Service Director for Membership - Gretchen Murphy Boykin, Santee SD  
 Service Director for Ways & Means - Alex Nguyen, San Diego USD  
 President Appointed At-Large Member - Ruben Castro, El Centro Elem SD  
 President Appointed At-Large Member - Bobbi Burkett, Alpine Union SD  
 President Appointed At-Large Member - Renato Montano, Imperial COE  
 ACSA State Board Rep - Tracy Thompson, San Diego COE  
 Past ACSA State Board Rep - Pat Crowder, San Diego Unified, Retired  
 Past ACSA State Board Rep - Jon LeDoux, El Centro Elem SD  
 Past ACSA State Board Rep - Joe Austin, Poway Unified SD  
 Past ACSA State Board Rep - Peter Johnson, San Diego Unified SD, Retired  
 State ACSA Membership, Deborah Burke, Retired  
 Region 18 Lead Ambassador, Mary Lawlor, Retired

### Charter Presidents

Region-18 Retired - Celia Ramirez, Retired from San Diego Unified SD  
 Greater San Dieguito - Ben Churchill, Carlsbad Unified SD  
 East County School Leadership - Patrick Keeley, Mtn Empire Unified SD  
 Imperial County - Lucio Padilla Jr., Calexico Unified SD  
 North County School Managers - VACANT  
 Palomar - Luis Ibarra, Escondido Union School District  
 Poway - Gretchen Murphy Boykin, Santee School District  
 San Diego City (AASD)- Donis Coronel, Executive Director  
 San Diego City (AASD)- Jolie Pickett, San Diego Unified SD  
 San Diego County Office - Alicia Gallegos Butters, San Diego COE  
 Southwest - Debra McLaren, Chula Vista Elementary School District

### Council Rep

Adult Education - Stacey Adame, Escondido Union HSD  
 Business Services - Lisa Davis, Solana Beach School District  
 Career Technical Education - Joe Austin, Poway Unified SD  
 Classified Educational Leaders - Antonio Romayor, Jr., El Centro Elem SD  
 Curr., Inst. & Accountability - Bonnie Munguia, Brawley Union High SD  
 Educational Options - Christine Feher, California Pacific Charter SD  
 Elementary Education - Joan Faus, El Centro Elementary SD  
 Human Resources - Candice Ortiz, El Centro Elementary SD  
 Middle Grades Education - Rose Flowers, Carlsbad Unified SD  
 Secondary Education - Rauna Fox, San Pasqual Valley Unified SD  
 Student Services & Special Ed.- Tom Bevilacqua, South Bay Union SD  
 Superintendency - Candace Singh, Fallbrook Union Elementary SD

### Committee Rep

ACSA/CAPEA - Erin English, San Diego County Office of Education  
 Co-Administration - Julie Steitz, Carlsbad Unified SD  
 Equity, Achievement & Diversity - Gabriela Llamas, Chula Vista Elem SD  
 Legislative Policy - Jon LeDoux, El Centro Elementary School District  
 Leadership Development Committee - Jay Marquand, Sweetwater UHSD  
 Member Services - Gretchen Murphy Boykin, Santee School District  
 Retirement - Sandy Clifton, Retired & Past State ACSA President  
 Region 18 Superintendents' - Karl Mueller, Coronado Unified SD  
 Region 18 Superintendents' Vice Chair - Ben Churchill, Carlsbad Unified SD  
 Small School District - Richard Cordero, Westmorland Union Elem SD

### State Officer

State Vice President, Legislative Action

Gina Potter, San Ysidro SD

State Appointed Large School Districts

Liaison

Lamont Jackson, San Diego Unified SD

## Calendar of Events

September 22, 2021

Region 18 Leadership Forum  
 BW 7 Seas or Zoom ~ 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

September 23-25, 2021

Women in School Leadership  
 Virtual

September 29-October 4, 2021

Personnel Institute, Long Beach

October, 2021

Oktoberfest Membership Event, Imperial Valley

October 14, 2021

State Leadership Assembly, TBD

November 4-6, 2021

Leadership Summit, San Francisco

January 12-14, 2022

Every Child Counts Symposium, Palm Desert

January 19-21, 2022

Negotiators' Symposium, San Diego

January 26-28, 2022

Superintendents' Symposium, Indian Wells

January 31, 2022

Past Presidents Meeting, Mission Valley

February 9, 2022

Region 18 Leadership Forum, Imperial Valley

February 23-25, 2022

Classified Educational Leaders Institute, TBD

March, 2022

March Madness Membership Event, TBD

April 3-4, 2022

Legislative Action Day, TBD

May 7, 2022

"Honoring Our Own" Awards Dinner  
 Sheraton Harbor Island Hotel & Resort

May 12, 2022

State Leadership Assembly, TBD

May 18, 2022

Region 18 Leadership Forum, Mission Valley

### Region 18 Staff

Tom Teagle, Executive Director/Consultant

Stephanie Napier, Administrative Assistant

Claudia Harper, Financial Secretary



## 2021 Charter Highlights

Southwest Charter  
Debra McLaren, Principal  
Camarena Elementary, Chula Vista Elementary SD

The Southwest Administrators' Association (SAA) sponsored a 360° Equity Series in January, February, and March of 2021. One of the highlights of the series was the February series guest, Dr. Fabiola Bagula, San Diego County Office of Education Director of Equity. Over 100 administrators participated on Zoom to develop a deeper understanding of Equity and how it relates to intersectional trauma. The group was reminded of the levels of listening as leaders prepare for the return of students. This was particularly useful as many administrators were preparing for a return of Hybrid model and listening to families, staff, and students was part of the daily routine. The event was very well received and there were many administrators who followed up with the SAA Leadership to get more information and support.

San Dieguito Charter  
Dr. Ben Churchill, Superintendent  
Carlsbad Unified School District

The Greater San Dieguito ACSA Charter is proud to celebrate the recipients of the 2021 Student Standout Awards. Greater San Dieguito Charter is made up of seven school districts in north coastal San Diego County: Cardiff, Carlsbad Unified, Del Mar, Encinitas, Solana Beach, Rancho Sante Fe, and San Dieguito Union High School District. Every Year, each of the elementary, middle, and high schools in the charter select a Student Standout Award recipient from one of the following categories: the arts, community service, humanities, courage, fellowship, and science. The Student Standout Award winners are recognized at an annual event each year in the spring. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Student Standout Award ceremony was held virtually. A video highlighting the winners from each of the schools may be found at: <https://youtu.be/utXI0i9vcPE>.

A list of the 2021 Student Standout Award recipients may be found at: <https://bit.ly/3ygfNjF>. The 2021 Student Standout Awards were sponsored by Mission Federal Credit Union.

Association of Poway School Managers  
Gretchen Murpy Boykin, Vice Principal  
Santee School District

The Association of Poway School Managers continued to meet monthly via Zoom throughout the school year. In the fall APSM held a fundraiser and networking Poker Party. In spring, a virtual wine tasting fundraiser and networking event was held, hosted by Koi Zen Winery. The final fundraiser of the year was held on June 22, 2021 called "Dine Out Day". Several mini-grants were given to fellow membership leaders from the proceeds. The year ended with the Charter giving two scholarships to each of Poway USD High Schools students that were interested in pursuing a career in the field of education. Despite many "pivots" throughout the year, 2020-2021 was a success!

Imperial County Charter  
Lucio Padilla, Jr., Director of Technology  
Calexico Unified School District

The challenges from the 2020-2021 school year brought upon the opportunity for us to adapt, reflect, and rethink our passion as a charter. We successfully adapted and hosted all of our annual events. This included our welcome back event, fall and spring mixers, and annual awards event. All events were held virtually with a huge focus on going the extra mile to bring a much needed sense of connectedness while also making it fun and special. We did everything we were able to do before the pandemic and so much more. We increased participation in our events and we received positive feedback. Throughout the year we consistently reflected on how we were engaging our members and our educational community. These periods of reflection allowed us to rethink our purpose and we began to implement new actions. We met consistently to plan new ways to creatively increase member engagement and service to our members by embracing the belief that the closer we come together, the better we may service our community.

On Wednesday, August 4, 2021, we will host our annual welcome back event in person. In addition to featuring keynote speaker Thomas Murray, the event is being designed to enhance our culture of caring, to be connected, and to contribute to our community. The event will host fun and competitive games with opportunities to win prizes and ACSA Imperial County swag. We have a few surprises as well. Aligned with the theme of the latest book from Tom Murray, the event will focus on being "Personal and Authentic" with the goal of enhancing our efforts as a charter in bringing value to our members and our educational community.



Thomas E. Teagle, Ed.D.  
Region 18 Executive Director/Consultant

Dear ACSA Region 18

I am so excited about the prospect of our wonderful organization getting back on track for the in-person meetings and activities this coming year! We have such a dynamic group of leaders in ACSA Region 18, and by my estimation, we are second to none as a professional organization of school administrators in the State of California. Under the outstanding leadership of President Juan Cruz and our dedicated and proactive Leadership Assembly, we are poised to have our best year ever!

As I enter my 40th year as a member of State ACSA, and my 13th year as your Executive Director/Consultant, I am humbled by the hard work so many of our members do to make this organization so outstanding. Regardless of the level of leadership, from Assistant Principal to Superintendent, it is so heartwarming to see our membership work side-by-side, for the primary goal of providing the best education to our students.

I will close with a huge congrats to all of our member leader champions who navigated this past year in such a positive manner, and who never gave up the fight to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This thought brings to mind a quote by William Jennings Bryan:

“Destiny is no matter of chance.  
It is a matter of choice.

It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.”

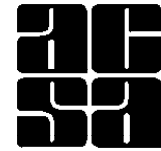
I thank each and every one of you for your hard work and servant leadership!

Tom

SAVE THE DATE!  
MAY 7, 2022  
HONORING OUR OWN  
AWARD DINNER  
SHERATON, HARBOR ISLAND



# Student Recognition



## SDCSBA & ACSA Region 18 Student Scholarship Award

Region 18 of the Association of California School Administrators (San Diego and Imperial Counties) and the San Diego County School Boards Association were very pleased to offer ten (10) \$1,000 scholarships as a result of donations made by both organizations and our generous business partners. A special Thank You to HarperRand Education who contributed \$5,000 enabling us to offer an additional five scholarships!

Student awardees met all five criteria areas: 1) Senior attending high school in San Diego or Imperial County; 2) show proven academic success with at least a 3.3 cumulative grade point average; 3) involved in community service; 4) who may or may not necessarily qualify for other financial aid; and 5) are pursuing a career in education as a teacher or other certificated employee.

### *Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship Winners!*

#### **Dakotah Audibert**

Julian High School  
Julian Union High School District

#### **Perla Lares**

Julian High School  
Julian Union High School District

#### **Rachel de Cunha**

Rancho Bernardo High School  
Poway Unified High School District

#### **Loreli Ledezma**

Mountain Valley Academy  
Ramona Unified School District

#### **Ruben Felix**

Brawley Union High School  
Brawley Union High School District

#### **Angeleah Madore**

Escondido High School  
Escondido Union High School District

#### **Dulce Ivonne Gomez**

El Camino High School  
Oceanside Unified High School District

#### **Amanda Pedroza**

Hilltop High School  
Sweetwater Union High School District

#### **Agelu Laftaga**

La Costa Canyon High School  
San Dieguito Union High School District

#### **Taryl Townsend**

Mountain Empire High School  
Mountain Empire Unified School District



## Region 18 Every Student Succeeding Award

#### **Zayne Higuera**

Mountain Empire High School  
Mountain Empire Unified School District

Each year, State ACSA recognizes 19 pre-K to adult students, one from each geographic region, as well as two California adult education students, for overcoming the odds and achieving success. Congratulations to Zayne Higuera, Region 18's award winner who will receive an award of \$2,000; \$500 from Region 18's Retired Charter, \$500 from Region 18 and \$1,000 from State ACSA!



## 19th Annual “Honoring Our Own” Awards

On May 1, 2021, educators including school board members, friends, family and sponsors attended the 19th Annual “Honoring Our Own” Virtual Awards Event. The virtual awards was viewed via ACSA Region 18 YouTube Channel. It was a fun and entertaining event watched by over 500 viewers!

Congratulations to the all 32 awardees who will received recognition for excellence in their field! Our sponsors played a major role in presenting the awards virtually. We are looking forward to returning to an in person awards program for 2022! Please SAVE THE DATE: May 7, 2022, The Sheraton Harbor Island

Special “Thanks” to our generous Business Partners!

### Corporate Sponsors

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SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

### Diamond Sponsors

California Schools VEBA  
East County Schools Federal Credit Union  
United Healthcare

### Ruby Sponsors

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North Island Credit Union  
Informed K12

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Cox Communications

### Student Entertainment

Carlsbad High School Choir  
Advanced Choirs of:

Del Norte, Mt. Carmel, Poway, Rancho  
Bernardo, and Westview High School  
with Poway Unified High School District  
Canyon Crest Academy/San Dieguito Union  
High School District

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Darshana Patel, SDCSBA President  
Juan Cruz, ACSA Region 18 President  
Debra Schade, Marla Strich, Arturo  
Solis, Carmen Aguilar, Claudine Jones,  
Joy Ceasar, Bobbi Burkett, Joan Faus, Tom  
Teagle, Stephanie Napier

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MAY 7, 2022**

**HONORING OUR OWN**

**AWARD DINNER**

**SHERATON, HARBOR ISLAND**

### PRODUCTION CREW

Lucio Padilla Jr., Antonio Romayor Jr., and  
Fernando Arguelles with  
IVCUE



# Congratulations to all the 2021 ACSA Region 18 Administrators of the Year!

“Honoring Our Own”



**Jeri Billick**  
Principal, James Dukes Elementary  
Ramona Unified School District  
**Elementary Principal Category**



**Heather Potter**  
Principal, Knox Middle School  
San Diego Unified School District  
**Middle Grades Principal Category**



**Stephanie Ceminsky**  
Director, Early Childhood Education  
San Diego Unified School District  
**Elementary Co-Administrator Category**



**Rich Watkins**  
Director, Pupil Services  
Escondido Union High School District  
**Student Services Category**



**Jorge Espinosa**  
Principal, Alternative Education  
Carlsbad Unified School District  
**Continuation/Ed Options Category**



**Marco Arellano**  
STEM Coordinator  
El Centro Elementary School District  
**Curriculum and Instruction Category**



**Kristie Towne**  
Executive Assistant to Superintendent  
Solana Beach School District  
**Confidential Employee Category**



**Sharon Casey**  
Executive Director, Special Education & Instruction  
Chula Vista Elementary School District  
**Special Education Category**



“Honoring Our Own”

2021 Administrators of the Year



**Precious Jackson Hubbard**  
Principal, Bell Middle School  
San Diego Unified School District  
**Middle Grades Principal Category**



**Jennifer Orr**  
Director, Child Development Center  
Solana Beach School District  
**Classified Leader Category**



**Michelle Hayes**  
Assist. Superintendent of Personnel Services  
Cajon Valley Union School District  
**Personnel/Human Resources Category**



**Sandra Clifton**  
Retired Principal  
La Mesa-Spring Valley School District  
**Retired Category**



**Eileen Frazier**  
Principal, El Camino High School  
Oceanside Unified School District  
**Secondary Principal Category**



**Staci Monreal**  
Chief of Staff  
San Diego Unified School District  
**Central Office Category**



**Mark Burroughs**  
Superintendent/Principal  
San Pasqual School District  
**Superintendent/Principal Category**



**Tessa Riley**  
Academic Dean, Del Lago Academy  
Escondido Union High School District  
**Secondary Co-Administrator Category**



**Richard Roberts**  
Executive Director, Educational Technology Services  
Grossmont Union High School District  
**Technology Administrator Category**





“Honoring Our Own”

2021 Administrators of the Year



**Gary Petill**  
Director, Food Services  
San Diego Unified School District  
Business Services Category



**John Czajkowski**  
Security Coordinator and Advisor  
Sweetwater Union High School District  
Central Office Category



**Joe Austin**  
Career Education Specialist  
Poway Unified School District  
Career Technical Education Category

2021 State Awardee - Valuing Diversity



**Carol Osborne**  
Associate Superintendent of Learning Support  
Services  
Poway Unified School District  
Business Services Category

2021 Marcus Foster  
Memorial Award Nominee



**Staci McClanahan Dent**  
Program Manager Teaching & Learning  
San Diego Unified School District

Partners for Educational  
Excellence Awardee



**UC San Diego Health**  
Presented to Patti Maysent, CEO  
San Diego



“Honoring Our Own”

2021 Administrators of the Year

**Region 18**

Superintendent of the Year



**Dr. Marian Kim-Phelps**

Superintendent

Poway Union High School District

**Superintendent Category**



## Outstanding Instructional Leader Presented by California ASCD & ASCA Region 18



**Cindy Marten**  
Superintendent  
San Diego Unified School District



Tom Teagle, ACSA Region  
18 Executive Director,  
presenting Cindy Marten  
with the Outstanding  
Instructional Leader Award



## School Boards Association Awardees

School Board Member of  
the Year  
Dede Alpert Award



**Debra Schade**  
Solana Beach School District



**Gary Woods**  
Board Member of the Year  
Grossmont Union High School District



**Martha Alvarado**  
First Term Board Member of the Year  
Vista Unified School District





**“Honoring Our Own”**

**School Boards Association Awardees**



**Norma Carrillo**  
Valley Ctr - Pauma Unified School District  
**Confidential Employee of the Year**



**Yu Linda Song**  
Solana Beach School District  
**Parent Volunteer of the Year**



**Will Salley**  
Vista Unified School District  
**Staff Member of the Year**



**San Diego County Office of Education**  
Presented to Paul Gothold, Superintendent  
**Community Partner of the Year**



**HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
ACSA REGION 18!  
ESTABLISHED 1971**

**First President: Ronald E. Johnson/1971-1972**

Principal, Fred Rohr Elementary, Chula Vista Elementary SD

**First Consultant: Jack Stone/1987-1991**

**First Admin Assistant Joanne Baggot/1986-1990**

**First Office: 4308 Park Blvd, SD/1987-1999**

San Diego & Imperial County School Foundation for Education Activities  
501c3 Foundation Formed by Jack Stone, 1986



### In Remembrance of Dr. Gary S. Olson

A long time Vista resident, community leader, educator, and avid pilot, Dr. Gary Scott Olson passed away at home on May 11, 2021.

Dr. Olson was born in Minnesota on September 18, 1928. He graduated from Bemidji State University in Minnesota, and later on he became the Senior High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools at Barrett Public Schools and Blackduck Public Schools.

Dr. Olson was a veteran who served in the U.S. Army as an instructor at Fort Rucker, Alabama.

Dr. Olson moved with his family to Vista, Ca in 1964. He contributed immensely to the community as a teacher and Principal at Vista High School, and later as Director of Personnel, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent of Vista Unified School District.

He also served on the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club, North County United Way, and Vista Chambers of Commerce.

Later on, Dr. Olson worked as Director of Graduate Education at Point Loma Nazarene University and Executive Director for the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), Region 18. He also served as State's President of ACSA. Gary was a highly regarded and much loved School Administrator Superintendent in ACSA Region 18.

Among other achievements, Gary was Region 18 President from 1979 to 1980, ACSA State President, 1984 to 1985, and Region 18 Consultant from 1992 to 1999. Throughout his leadership roles, Dr. Gary Olson always led with heart and passion for education and his community.

Gary loved traveling with his wife, Carol Souviney Olson (decd. in 2018). They were both incredibly generous with their time, energy, and experience. He loved music, sports, reading, and flying his Cessna 180, but most of all he loved his family. Gary will be dearly missed by his children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all the people who respected and loved him.

The family is honoring Gary's request that no memorial service be held. If friends or family wish to honor him, please donate in Gary's name to:

The Kelly Olson Scholarship  
Vista High School  
1 Panther Way  
Vista, CA 92084  
(760) 726-5661