2015 ACSA Leadership Summit

By: Rose Lock

The theme of the 2015 annual summit held on November 5-7 in Sacramento was Courageous Leaders Ignite the Dreams of All. I was personally inspired by the keynote speakers scheduled throughout the conference.

**Marcellus McRae**

Attorney Marcellus McRae, lead co-counsel for the plaintiffs in Vergara v. California, opened the first general session. He has argued that the tenure laws in California condone inequity and that it has become acceptable that some students (poor and minority) do not have the same educational opportunities as others.

McRae stated that, “These statutes put California public schools at risk, especially minority and poor students.” He said that the state’s “convoluted, 17-step dismissal process discourages school districts from addressing grossly ineffective teachers.” He cited that on the average only 2.2 teachers out of 275,000 per year are dismissed for unsatisfactory performance. California laws also support a last in, first out in teacher layoffs. McRae further claimed that the process harms students.


You can also read more about Vergara v. California at http://studentsmatter.org/our-case/vergara-v-california-case-summary/

**Fredi Lajvardi**

Fredi Lajvardi, the second keynote speaker, provided an uplifting and inspirational account of high expectations of students.

Fredi and his colleague are the real-life teacher subjects of Joshua Davis’s book and feature film Spare Parts. Between them, they have 54 years of teaching experiences. They came to national attention when their students in the robotics program at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix beat college powerhouses such as MIT in national competitions.

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Dear ACSA Region 6 Colleagues,

Please accept my heartfelt wishes for the most joyous of holiday seasons. I hope that each of you gets the well-earned rest you deserve and that you are able to enjoy your family and friends.

Here’s to a great 2016 for all of us!

Janet Haun
President, ACSA Region 6
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Fredi shared the story of his students. He believes his job is to remove obstacles for his students. About 80% of the students at Carl Hayden HS live below the poverty line with many undocumented and speaking limited English. Yet, despite the odds, Fredi and his colleague turned the robotics team to state and national champions with students garnering more than $1 million in scholarships.

Fredi ended his inspirational talk with the words: “If life doesn’t give you a dream, build one.”

Kati Haycock

Kati Haycock, another keynote speaker, is a long time children advocate in education and currently serving as the president of Education Trust. She spoke to the ongoing opportunity and achievement gaps in our nation despite being one of the richest countries in the world. Unfortunately, the barriers to diminish these gaps continue to grow.

There are many factors that contribute to overcoming barriers; however, there is little disagreement that quality of education is one of the most critical one. Haycock said, “In American, there is only one road up, and that road runs through us.”

Unfortunately, the reality is that policies and laws do not truly support equal opportunities for educational success. Haycock noted that our system exacerbate the problem with students who need more are given less. On the average, the national gap between low and high poverty district districts is $1200 per student and between low and high minority districts is $2,000 per student.

Haycock expanded that, “We take these kids and give them less of everything that makes a difference. These decisions are made based on who’s worth investing in and who’s just a little bit less worthy.” However, she believes that educators’ actions in supporting students can go a long to reverse this. Haycock continued, “The bottom line is what we do in education matters hugely.”

Every Student Succeeding

During the luncheon on the first day, award recipients from each region for the Every Student Succeeding program. This program, in existence for nearly twenty years, recognizes students who overcame obstacles to succeed in school, as well as the educational team supporting them. Region 6 awards a $1000 scholarship in addition to the same award offered by ACSA. Our region’s winner this year was Alexander Large, who graduated from Marchus School.

21st Century Classroom

Cisco’s Digital Learning Revolution Tour Bus, parked outside the Sacramento Convention Center, offered a glimpse into a digitally connected mobile classroom. The DLR tour has visited about 300 schools, showing students and teachers the power that mobile technology offers today.

2016 ACSA Leadership Summit. Mark your calendars for the conference on November 10-12 in San Diego.
Administrator of the Year Awards

By: Rose Lock

The Friday evening awards dinner at the November Leadership Summit provided more inspirational moments. Attendees heard story after story of our top educational leaders in the state and how each of them contributed significantly to education that impacted the lives of students.

Region 6 was well represented in the 21 categories. Mary-Louise Newling was recognized as the state’s Elementary Principal and Helen Gladden was selected as the Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year.

Mary-Louise believes that it’s an issue of equity and social justice that students in low-performing schools are best served by meaningful and engaging school experiences in the arts, science, and technology. Guided by this belief, she was successful in leading the transformation of Meadow Homes Elementary School in Mt. Diablo USD. The staff and community committed to a shared vision of educating the whole child and a laser focus on student learning. The school was selected as one of 10 California sites to participate in the White House’s Turnaround Arts Initiative. In her four years at the helm, Dr. Newling put into place structures and systems that promoted professional learning community practices, collaboration, data-drive decisions, and rigorous instruction. She developed and nurtured a high performing staff which was critical to raising student achievement.

Helen Gladden credited her previous career as an institutional planning specialist for the federal governing in contributing to her success as a school administrator. As a Vice Principal at Livermore High School, she was instrumental in leading many of the school’s improvement efforts in school climate and student achievement. Helen retired at the end of the last school year and this well-deserved recognition capped a successful career in education.
Welcome, New ACSA Members!

By: Rose Lock

Carol Butcher – West Contra Costa USD
Christine Huajardo – San Ramon Valley USD
Richard Oslund – Morago ESD
Eleanor Persons – Moraga ESD
Lynne Wilson – Moraga ESD
Ardarious McDonald – Berkeley USD

2015-16 Region 6 Academies

ACSA offers a full range of academies that help educators build administrative and leadership skills in current position as well as preparation for career advancements. They are designed around the California Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (CPSEL). Instructors and presenters for academies are some of most knowledgeable and respected leaders in their area of expertise.

For the current 2015-16 school year, Region 6 is hosting five academies in Alameda or Contra Costa Counties:

- Curriculum and Instructional Leaders Academy (Director: Debbie Ashmore in Newark)
- Innovative Technology Academy (Director: Melissa Strongman in Pleasant Hill)
- Personnel Administrators Academy (Directors: Kathy Goldman & Sherri Beetz in Dublin)
- Principals Academy (Directors: Rose Lock & Julie Braun Martin in Concord)
- Pupil Services Academy (Director: Ricky Jones in Fremont)

Unlike workshops or conferences, the academy format provides intensive learning experiences to adequately prepare and insure participants’ success in advancing their career. Academies are typically held on a weekend (Friday evenings and Saturdays) over several months during the school year. Look for announcements for next year’s academies as well as scholarship opportunities each spring.
A huge thank you to all the Charters that sent in nominations! We have a lot of people getting recognition for the great work they do. We are moving on to the next steps. We are planning to screen the nominations on January 15 from 9:30-11:30 at the Contra Costa County of Education Office. We will choose one nominee per category to move forward to the State level. If you are interested in helping with this process, please contact your Charter President and they can submit your name to Cindy Matteoni, VP Awards at matteonic@mdusd.org. All awards must be submitted to the State ACSA by February 1, 2016. Congratulations to all the nominees, you are all winners!

What Does being an ACSA Member Mean?

By: Rose Lock

How often do we complain about insufficient or unsatisfactory communication from an individual or an organization? Communication has to be a two-way street. The burden is not only on the provider but also the recipient. We also recognize that effective communication has to be repeated many times and using different means.

To realize the maximum benefit of your membership and capitalize on the resources and services offered by ACSA, here are some tips to be more informed.

- Check out the new ACSA website at www.ACSA.org
- Access our Region 6 website from ACSA.org under regions (we are in the process of adding pages for our region’s charters)
- Follow ACSA on Twitter _@ACSA_info, @ACSA_GR, @ACSARegion6_
- ACSA App which includes access to region websites, ACSA news, Job Search, Legislative tracking reports, ACSAtv, etc.
- ACSA Daily News Clips, email crodda@acsa.org to opt in

What’ Happening In Your Charter?

Help encourage our colleagues by sending in stories and pictures about your successes and/or events in your school, district, or charter. We’d love to hear from you! Please email your information to Kandi Gravenmier, Newsletter Editor, at kandig@att.net.
2016 Region 6 Election

By: Rose Lock

Are you ready to take on a leadership role in Region 6? Your Executive Board is taking nominations or interests in the following Board Positions:

Elected positions: President-Elect (3-year commitment, President-Elect, President, Past President)
Comptroller (3-year term)
   - The Comptroller shall be responsible for developing and monitoring the annual budget, reviewing and posting income and expense vouchers. He/she collaborates with the Treasurer who monitors and maintains the financial accounts and completing all financial transaction.

Appointed positions: At-Large Representative from Alameda County (2 years)
   Rep to State Adult Education Council (3 years)
   Rep to State Business Services Council (3 years)
   Rep to State Career Technical Education Council (3 years)

CEL INSTITUTE

CSA’s annual CEL Institute is specifically designed for classified education leaders in all areas of management, including business/fiscal services, human resources / personnel, maintenance/operations, custodial, technology, facilities, student services/instructional, including confidential and administrative assistants. It is an opportunity to share information and best practices, as well as learn about issues that impact education.

The 2016 institute, "Shining the Sun on Education," will be held Feb. 25-26 in Redondo Beach. For more information, including a detailed schedule, speakers and hotel information, download the Information Brochure or register online.