



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

November, 2018



President's Message

Greetings ACSA Region 6,

As I write this message, I heard that all Bay Area School Districts are closed before the Thanksgiving Holiday! The “Camp Fire” is described as one of the worst fires in California State history. Although many schools in our Region are closed we must remember that our colleagues in the affected counties don’t have homes, work or schools to return to after the Holiday. It reminds me to be thankful for the things I may sometimes take for granted, shelter, food and loved ones. Our neighbors are dealing with the loss of their homes, belongings and unfortunately the loss of life. The “Camp Fire” didn’t discriminate as it roared and destroyed almost everything in its path. At the end of the day we are all human and human kindness is what is going to be needed in the upcoming months. If you want to donate please check out the links on the ACSA home page: <https://www.acsa.org/>

Region 6 continues to demonstrate “Bold and Courageous” Leadership! Representatives attended and sponsored the 2018 Alameda and Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year Events. We had representation at the ACSA Federal Legislation Action Day in Washington, DC and our Leadership team attended the October Leadership Assembly. We provided over 20 vouchers for Region 6 members to attend the State Leadership Summit in San Diego in November. In addition, we are also providing partial scholarships for ACSA academy attendance. I also had the honor of attending the Women’s Leadership Network event. Region 6 member and Orinda ESD Superintendent, Dr. Carolyn Seaton, presented an interactive workshop on the “Multi-generational Workforce”.

I encourage all charters to continue your advocacy work and make sure our voices are heard as the new elected officials begin in

January. The ACSA Advocacy team has excellent resources and strategies to help us engage with our local elected officials. Most of our districts are facing major monetary cuts, we must continue to push for increased funding for PreK-12 education. We are the best at telling our stories so continue to advocate.

Lastly, congratulations to Lynn Mackey from Region 6 on her victory. She was elected as the Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools. Region 6 also congratulates Tony Thurmond as the New Superintendent of Public Instruction in California.

Remember to continue to share your events, pictures, and recruitment efforts. Thank you for the work you do every day with and for our students! I wish you the best this Holiday season!

Sincerely,
[Sonja Neely-Johnson](#)



Do You Know a Bold and Courageous Leader in Region 6? Tell us about this individual

Our President Sonja Neely-Johnson announced the theme of "[Bold and Courageous Leadership](#)" for our region this year. We would like to feature administrators/managers in our region who exemplify bold and courageous leadership. If you know someone in our region who exhibits these traits, send his/her name to us at region6advance@gmail.com. Include a short paragraph explaining how this individual is a bold and courageous leader.

Here are the 7 traits identified in [Forbes](#). Bold and courageous leaders:

1. Don't run from storms
2. Set bold expectations
3. Welcome change, promote ownership, and reward transformation
4. Don't hinder failure, embrace it!
5. Promote team collaboration
6. Define, mitigate, and control risk
7. Take action, be accountable, and measure results



Region 6 Welcomes New Superintendents

With the retirement of Rachel Zinn, Region 6 welcomes Richard Whitmore, the new superintendent in Lafayette School District. Congratulations to Lynn Mackey who was recently elected to be the Superintendent of Contra Costa Schools! Our best wishes to both of these leaders in their new positions!



2018 ACSA Leadership Summit and

Administrators of the Year Awards Dinner

The Annual ACSA Leadership Summit was held recently on November 8-10 in beautiful San Diego with over 30 Region 6 members in attendance. Inspiring keynote addresses were delivered by Travis Allen, founder of the iSchool Initiative ("Are Students Getting Worse at Problem Solving?"); Tim Wise, an anti-racism activist and writer ("Challenging the Culture of Cruelty: Understanding and Defeating Race and Class Inequity in America"); and Shabnam Mogharabi, CEO and Executive Producer of SoulPancake ("Don't Just Be Happy. Be an Ambassador of Joy").

Four members of the ACSA Member Assistance & Legal Support Team presented a session on "Attributes of a Successful Administrator." All four are also retired superintendents and their observations and findings are based on their years of experience and now as ACSA advisors receiving thousands of calls from ACSA members. Here's their list of attributes:

1. Trust
2. Collaboration
3. Visionary
4. Make Decisions
5. Passion
6. Ethics
7. Focus
8. Politically Astute
9. Effective Communication

Another notable session was presented by ACSA Governmental Relations Legislative Advocate Laura Preston and two attorneys on "After the Janus Decision." This June 2018 US Supreme Court decision has huge long-term implications and it's important for administrators to become well informed about them. One of our Region 6 Charters, Diablo Managers Association, will be hosting a presentation with Laura in February. Look for Save the Date information later in this newsletter.

As the case every year, the highlight of the conference is the Every Student Succeeding luncheon when all regional winners are recognized. The heartwarming videos and often heart wrenching stories touched every attendee in the room. It reminded us that our resilient students can overcome huge amount of life challenges when they have the support of educators on their journey. Kudos to these students and their support teams. The nomination for 2019 Every Student Succeeding program has begun. There are so many students worthy of this recognition in our region. Go to Region 6 website for information.

If you have never or haven't in a long time attended this annual summit, you don't want to miss it next year. It will be held just across the bay in San Francisco! Mark your calendar now for November 7-9, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency.



Yolanda Mendrek, Liberty Union HSD and Molly Barnes, Superintendent of Sunol SD enjoyed the Kick-Off Reception on the US Midway.



Region 6 ESS winner Mariana Thomas was unable to attend but her story was shared.



Region 6 Leaders gathered for a fun evening after an inspiring day of learning.



Thriving on the Vine: Cultivating Creative, Bold & Courageous Leadership

June 19-20, 2019

Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton

Save the Date for the 2019 ACSA Region 6 Leadership Summit

Featuring:

George Couros, *The Innovator's Mindset*

Rushton Hurley, *Making Your School Special*

Alyssa Gallagher and Kami Thordarson, *Design Thinking for School Leaders*

Flippen Group, Relational Leadership

and more...

Registration opens in February 2019



From Councils, Committees, Charters

Retirement Committee

Luann Duggan

This is a very active committee. Our purpose is to be the bold advocate protecting our retirement benefits for all current and future ACSA members. What we're actively working on for this year include:

- Increasing the Supplemental Maintenance Benefit account of 85% Benefit to 91%. If you know of a long retired person who is barely making it on their retirement income now, ACSA wants to hear from them. Please contact memberservices@acsa.org with your story. We're working to build a case of the effect this low benefit is having on a number of retired individuals.
- Continuing to work for further increases in the One Time Death Benefit from CalSTRS from \$6372 to include future COLAs.
- Creating an activity design to orchestrate meetings with the entire Education Coalition: ACSA, CalRTA, CTA, etc. to discuss and strategize achieving one set of unified goals regarding service retirement issues with CalSTRS and CalPERS.
- Continuing to work on the federal level to eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision from Social Security .
- Increasing sharing and networking among ACSA retirees.

CalSTRS, CA's teacher pension fund, beats its investment goal for the second straight year due in large part to rising US and global stock markets. It reported a net return of 8.96 % on investments for the 2017-18 fiscal year that ended in June. That's a better return than the 7% CalSTRS counts on earning every year.

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Equity Committee

Tovi Scruggs and Tracie Noriega

Region 6 is planning an Equity Symposium for **Saturday, March 2, 2019 from 8:00 - 4:00 in Emery USD**. **SAVE the Date** for this highly requested event, "Bold and Courageous Leadership = Equity Work". Join us for a powerful day full of self-reflection and learning as we develop our equity consciousness together.

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Mentor Program

Julie Braun Martin

If you are interested in mentor support, please contact Julie for information. You can also check out our [website](#).

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Diablo Managers Association

Kris Martin Meyer, President

DMA will be hosting a presentation by Laura Preston, ACSA Governmental Relations Legislative Advocate, on the Janus Decision. **Save the Date: February 26, 2019, 4:00 pm**. Location TBD. Look for information for registration in upcoming newsletters. Open to all Region 6 members.



2019 Administrators of the Year

ACSA State Awards Program - Yes! It's that time again!

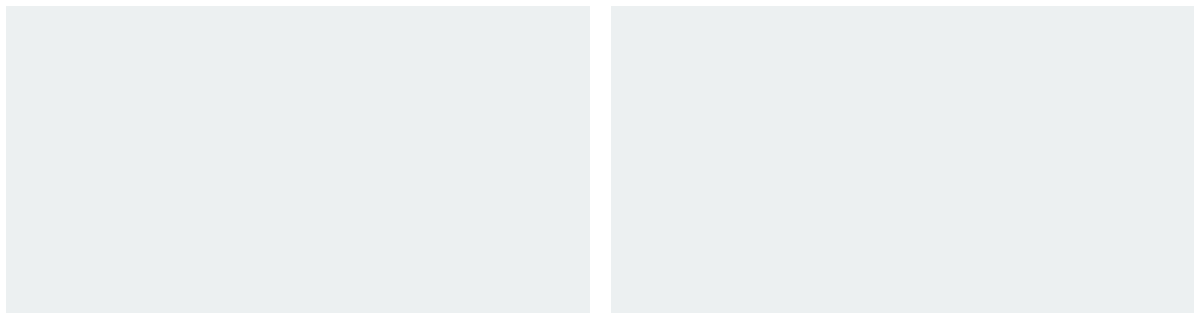
Charters must submit their nominations by January 17, 2019 for Region selection.

The ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards are all done online. [Click here](#) to the Region 6 website. These awards include Administrator Awards in 21 job-alike categories, Fred Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Service Award, Marcus Foster Memorial Award for Administrator Excellence, Robert E. Kelly Award, and the Valuing Diversity Award. We are also accepting nominations for the Partners in Educational Excellence Award.

Contact Vice President of Programs Cindy Matteoni at matteonic@mdusd.org if you have any questions. We all have deserving colleagues for this recognition! Let's get them recognized for the great work they are doing on behalf of students!



Women's Leadership Network





Our region is committed to continuing conversations that will support women leaders and will be hosting three events again this school year. Dr. Carolyn Seaton gave an outstanding presentation on "Multi-Generational Workforce" at our October event.

February 28, 2019

Kris Drobocky Baitoo on "Stage Your Career to Get the Position You Want"

Register for this event on Eventbrite on [this link](#)
[Click here](#) for flyer

May 2, 2019

Nick Zefeldt on Topic TBA

All events will be held from 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Topics were selected based on a survey of our members. All school leaders, men or women, are welcome. For updated information, check Region 6 website. [Click here](#).



\$\$\$ for Your School, Your Own Children, A Special Student, Yourself (It's not that hard!)

Have you applied for these ACSA Region 6 awards/scholarships?

1. MINI-GRANTS

Ten \$1,000 grants are provided to ACSA members who would like some financial support to start a new program (any school or district office) that enhances student learning.

DUE DATE – February 22, 2019

2. STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Ten \$1,000 scholarships are provided to children of ACSA Region 6 members who are seniors in high school going off to college or continuing their education as graduate students.

DUE DATE- March 15, 2019

3. EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDING SCHOLARSHIPS

ACSA Region 6 recognizes students who have made significant academic growth and have overcome physical and/or emotional barriers to succeed in school. Winner receives \$1,000 and each nominee receives \$250.

4. Professional Development Scholarships

ACSA Region 6 is committed to supporting our members in their continuing professional learning and career advancement. Each member is eligible to receive up to \$500 every three years towards fees for ACSA Academies. Check [Region 6 website](#) for timeline.

For all these programs, you can find the application forms and submission addresses on our region website at acsaregion6.org (click awards/scholarships for the forms).



From the Desk of Bob Giannini, Region Executive

Interested in being more involved as a leader in Region 6? The nominating committee is soliciting nominations for the following positions:

- President-Elect - 2019-20 (Year 2 as President, Year 3 as Past President)
- VP Staff Development - 2019-21 (Chair of annual Leadership Summit)
- VP Programs - 2019-2021 (Chair of Administrators of the Year Awards Program)
- VP Political Action - 2019-2022 (3-year term)
- Secretary - 2019-2021
- At-Large Rep (Contra Costa) - 2019-2021
- At-Large Rep (Alameda) - 2019-2021

Elections will be held in March 2019.

The following positions will also be open and they are appointed by the Executive Board:

- Two additional At-Large Representatives to balance Contra Costa and Alameda counties representation on the Executive Board (2019-2021)
- State Committee/Council Reps for 3-year terms (2019-2021)
 1. Equity (also sits on Region Executive Board)
 2. Career Technical
 3. Small School Districts
 4. Retirement

If you are interested in any of these positions or would like more information about their requirements, please call me at 925-216-9430 or email Essence Phillips, our Past-President, at EssencePhillips@antioch.k12.ca.us.

You can also access the Region 6 [By-Laws](#) with these job descriptions on our website at acsaregion6.org.

Bob Giannini, Region 6 Executive



Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members:

Acalanes UHSD

Karen Findlay

Alameda USD

Kimberly Valentino

Jill Drexel

Alameda COE

Mercedes Henderson

Antioch USD

Michael Santos

Sonja Bell

Brentwood ESD

Daniel Hawley

Dublin USD

Candice Baligaya

Maple Lai

Melissa West

Fremont USD

Walter Lewis

Christina Alton Hartwick

J. Carlisle Kim

Hayward USD

Elizabeth Witczak

Lafayette SD

Richard Whitmore

Liberty UHSD

Julene MacKinnon

Martinez USD

Erin Dinday

Monifa Morgan

Lori O'Connor

Mt. Diablo USD

Margarita Marshall

Newark USD

Amy Black

Oakland USD

John Moon

Oakley UESD

Kerena Skillman

Cathy Sousa

Melissa Vosburg

Orinda UESD

Tracey Lewis

Pittsburg USD

Jeannine Manguiat

Sonia Trujillo

Cecilia Valdez

Pleasanton USD

Nimarta Grewal

Nancy Bronzini

Steve Chapman

San Leandro

Victoria Martin

Doris Castillo-Shadic

Michele Felarca

Jason Strickland

Michael Cubacub

San Lorenzo

Sondra Williams

San Ramon USD

Osi Juergens

Megan Keefer
Elizabeth Pagano
Jon Sawyer
Dwight Pratt
Joe Nguyen

West Contra Costa USD

John al-Amin
Nick Berger
Michael Small
Rachel Avanesian
John Iwawaki
Marc Williams

Retirees

Sharon Keeton
Rafael Cruz

Kudos to the following ACSA members for recruiting new members this quarter:

Jon Campopiano(2), Janet Gates, Tess Johnson, Rose Lock(4), Raymond Raskop, Pam VandeKamp(2), Ben Washofsky(2), Matt Chamberlain, Leslie Heller, Renee Lama, Sonja Neely-Johnson(2), Silvia Orellana, Cheryl Bolling, Lauren Griggs, Linda Hutcherson, Denise Pinney, Lorianne Ventura



Region 6 Newsletter

*Congratulations to **Janet Haun** of CCCOE and **Roxanna Mohammad** of Livermore USD who won Starbucks gift cards for carefully reading the August issue of this newsletter! If you are reading this issue of our ACSA Region 6 Newsletter, we thank you for your engagement and support of our effort to communicate with you. [Click here](#) and you may win a prize!*



Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

ACSA Website

Region 6 Website

Region 6 Staff

Bob Giannini, Executive

Rose Lock, Consultant

Region 6 Leadership

President: Sonja Neely-Johnson

President-Elect: Pam VandeKamp

Past President: Essence Phillips

Vice President, Staff Development: Hilary Dito

Vice President, Programs: Cindy Matteoni

Vice President, Political Action: James Parrish

Vice President, Membership: Kris Martin-Meyer

Secretary: Pam Hughes

Treasurer: Kathy LaCome

Comptroller: Lorianne Ventura

Equity Chair: Tovi Scruggs

ACSA Board Director: Parvin Ahmadi

At-Large Representatives: Kevin Grier, Bruce

Burns, Tracie Noriega, Jacob Berg

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela