



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

March 2019



President's Message

Spring is here and this is one of the busiest time of the year for all administrators. There has been lots of activity politically including the launch of the CA School Dashboard, the Oakland USD teachers strike and the Governor's education budget focus.

State ACSA has many resources we can access that have information to help us better understand the [Dashboard](#). I am happy OUSD has agreed on a settlement but the district still faces school closures and loss of jobs. This makes the advocacy we do in Sacramento important to prevent districts from having to choose which essential resources have to be cut to meet the academic and socio-emotional needs of our students. I am pleased to say that we will send 13 Region 6 members to ACSA's Legislative Day on April 7 and 8.

I attended 3 important ACSA events recently. The Region 6 delegation attended the State Leadership Assembly on February 21, 2019 in Ontario. The agenda included speeches by the candidates for ACSA Vice President (Charlie Hoffman) and Vice President of Legislative Action (Dennis Cole & Barbara Martinez). If you would like to hear more from the candidates, check out [this link](#). Regions will vote at the May 9 Leadership Assembly.

We also had an opportunity to hear [legislative updates](#) and review the California System of Support for LEA's. Four districts shared their equity journey (ABC USD, Murietta Valley USD, Oakland USD and Riverside USD). All had great models and shared both successes and challenges.

I also had the pleasure of attending our inaugural Region 6 Equity Symposium. Special thanks to Tovi Scruggs and Tracie Noriega for planning such an inspiring event which included a panel of R6 superintendents who discussed their equity work. The breakout sessions included many topics. We appreciate our sponsors and

partners for their support: Emery USD, Partners in School Innovation, First Financial, ARKIPELAGO (The Filipino Bookstore) and Eastwind Books of Berkeley.

Lastly, I wanted to share that long time ACSA leader Bob Giannini resigned as our Region Executive. Bob has been an important presence in Region 6 and we will miss his wisdom and leadership. Bob will be honored at this year's Awards Dinner on June 20, 2019. I am pleased to say that Rose Lock has stepped up to become the Executive and Steve Collins is the Consultant. Bob has left us in good hands.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming Region 6 events. Congratulations to our newly elected/appointed Board Members and Committee/Council Reps. Thank you for their commitment.

Sincerely,
[Sonja Neely-Johnson](#)



Mini-Grant Winners

Congratulations to the following mini-grant winners! Each grant was awarded from \$500 to \$1,000.

- Lourdes Beleche (Mt. Diablo USD) - STEM Room
- Matt Chamberlain (Martinez USD) - Robotics Club Competition
- Colleen Dowd (Mt. Diablo USD) - Reading Intervention Program for Tiers 2/3
- Helen Gladden (Livermore USD) - Student Learning and Gathering Space
- Linda Granger (Eden Area ROP) - Industry Partners Recognition
- Tawny Leonard (Oakley Union ESD) - Peaceful Corner
- Marga Marshall (Mt. Diablo USD) - Family Art Backpacks
- Kristan Martin Meyer (Mt. Diablo USD) - Thematic Units for NGSS
- Roxana Mohammed (Livermore USD) - Scholarships for Training Seniors
- Theodora Pappas (Mt. Diablo USD) - Equipment for Media Center
- Nia Rashidchi (Castro Valley USD) - New Teachers Saturday Training
- Erin Roberts (Oakley Union ESD) – Building Community (New School)
- Harvey Yurkovich (Knightsen SD) - Partial Funding for Sound System



Region 6 Leadership for 2019-2020

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Region 6 Leadership:

Executive Board

- President - Pam VandeKamp (Pleasanton USD)
- Past President - Sonja Neely-Johnson (West Contra Costa USD)
- President-Elect - Jacob Berg (Pleasanton USD)
- Vice President Staff Development - Hilary Dito (Contra Costa COE)
- Vice President Programs - Pam Hughes (Newark USD)
- Vice President Membership - Kris Martin Meyer (Mt. Diablo USD)
- Vice President Legislation - James Parrish III (San Leandro USD)
- Secretary - Christy Glaser (San Ramon USD)
- Treasurer - Kathy LaCome (San Lorenzo USD)

- Comptroller - Lorianne Ventura (Dublin USD)
- State Board of Directors - Parvin Ahmadi (Castro Valley USD)
- Representative At-Large, Alameda County - Raul Zamora (Fremont USD)
- Representative At-Large, Contra Costa County - Jon Campopiano (San Ramon USD)
- Representative At-Large, Alameda County - To be appointed
- Representative At-Large, Contra Costa County - To be appointed
- Equity Chair - Tracie Noriega (New Haven USD)

Region 6 Representative to ACSA State Councils and Committees:

- Adult Education - Susie Passeggi (Castro Valley USD)
- Business Services Committee - Annette Heldman (San Lorenzo USD)
- Career Technical Education - Amy Robbins (Tri-Valley ROP)
- Classified Educational Leaders - Kandi Gravenmier (Contra Costa COE)
- Co-Administrators - Roxana Mohammed (Livermore Valley JUSD)
- Educational Options - Darrel Avilla (Livermore USD)
- Curriculum, Instruction and Accountability - Marsha Tokuyoshi (Contra Costa COE)
- Equity - Tovi Scruggs (Partners in School Innovation)
- Elementary Education - Jacob Berg (Pleasanton USD)
- Human Resources - Melanie Jones (San Ramon USD)
- Legislative Policy - Lisa Murphy-Oates (Mt. Diablo USD)
- Middle Grades Education - Mistee Guzman (Livermore Valley JUSD)
- Retirees - Gail Yothers
- Student Services/Special Ed - Felicia Stuckey Smith (Mt. Diablo USD)
- Small School District - Harvey Yurkovich (Knightsen SD)
- Secondary Education - Kibby Kleiman (West Contra Costa USD)
- Superintendency - Dana Eaton (Brentwood SD)
- ACSA/CAPEA - OPEN



2019 Region 6 Leadership Summit Thriving on the Vine: Cultivating Creative, Bold & Courageous Leadership

June 19-20, 2019

Casa Real at Ruby Hill Winery in Pleasanton

Don't miss this outstanding conference with a lineup of presenters including:

George Couros - *Innovator's Mindset*

Rushton Hurley - *Making Your School Special***

Victor Rios - *Project GRIT: Generating Resilience to Inspire Transformation*

Alyssa Gallagher & Kami Thordarson - *Design Thinking for School Leaders*

Heather Hough - *Social-Emotional Learning*

Vern Hazard - *Relational Leadership*

Bay Area Discovery Museum - *Try It Truck!*

Administrators of the Year Awards Dinner on June 20

[Click here](#) for Summit flyer

[Register Now](#) on Eventbrite

Early Bird Registration Ends on April 20

New this year - Pre-Symposium Book Study for *Innovator's Mindset*

Start the conversation at flipgrid.com/acsa2019

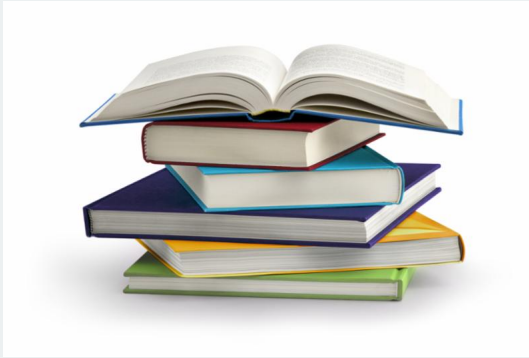
All who post will be entered into our Fliipgrid Raffle. Prizes include gift cards to Amazon, Starbucks, and more.

Also New this year - Video Challenge

Celebrate your school's or district's success stories

Due May 3. [Click here for flyer](#)

****** Be part of Rushton Hurley's "Making Your School Special" challenge by producing a simple, short video describing a program or activity that you are proud your school/district offers.



Book Exchange at the Summit

Back again for the 3rd year!

Many of us have cherished professional book collections that are hard to part with. Consider sharing them with other educational leaders. Bring these professional books (relatively current) to the Summit. We will have a table set up so attendees can give and take these valuable resources.



It's Been Busy in Region 6!

Retiree Charter

President - Dick Lloyd

Retired Administrators are some of the busiest people with many of them still involved in giving back to their profession. If you are planning to retire soon, have recently retired, or have been retired but want to network with other retirees, you might want to get involved in the Region 6 Retiree Charter. The group meets three times a year for a luncheon that includes a planned program on topics of interest to members.

If you did not transition to a retiree membership in ACSA, it's not too late. There are two types of membership for retirees, *Retired* or *Retired-Emeritus*. You can go to the ACSA website for more information at [this link](#).

This is a great way to increase your social capital in retirement.



Susan Burleson thanked the Ghostlight Theatre



A group of retired Region 6 leaders catching up.



Women's Leadership Network



A roomful of engaged women leaders learning to be more empowered.



Nikki Chaplan won one of the raffle prizes presented by our VP Cindy Matteoni.



Mary Jude Doeringhaus also won a raffle prize! Here with Cindy and Pam VandeKamp.

At our February 28 networking event, Cheryl Cotton shared tips and encouragement with our women leaders on how to "Stage Your Career to Get the Position You Want." She is the current Director of Human Resource in Albany Unified SD and President of the North Alameda Charter.

Cheryl's presentation was followed by discussion and Q&A with a distinguished panel made up of Carolyn Seaton, Orinda Schools Superintendent; Karen Sakata, recently retired Superintendent of CCCOE; Essence Philips, HR Director in Antioch USD; Sonja Neely-Johnson, Director of Secondary Special Ed in West Contra Costa USD; and Pam VandeKamp, Director of Assessment in Pleasanton USD.

FINAL EVENT THIS YEAR - May 2, 2019

Nick Zefeldt, Instructional Technology Coordinator, CCCOE
Topic: Finding Work/Life Balance in an Always Connected World

Finding a work/life balance is so important to ensure that as passionate educators and administrators we are able to serve our communities without burning out. Come to this presentation to explore how we can experiment with our daily habits and routines to create space to rest and recharge when away from work.

Location: Orinda Union School District

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

[Click here](#) for flyer

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](#).



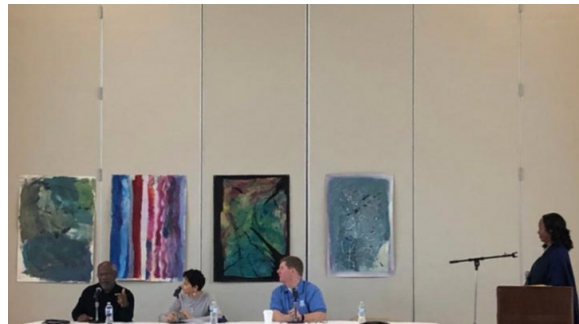
Equity Symposium - Bold and Courageous Leadership = Equity Work

Region 6 held its first Equity Symposium on Saturday, March 2, at Emery USD. The day opened with a Superintendents Panel moderated by host Superintendent Quiauna Scott that was informative and inspiring. Workshop topics included *Unconscious Bias*, *Ethnic Studies Pedagogy*, *Courageous Conversations*, *Equity Change Agents*, *Equity: From Policy to Classroom*, and *Equity and Family Engagement*.

Attendees also had the opportunity to receive individual or team coaching from staff of Partners in School Innovation in the afternoon.



Co-Chairs Tovi Scruggs and Tracie Noriega welcome leaders to open the symposium.



Superintendents Panel spoke passionately about their equity work and inspired all those in attendance. It included Arlando Smith, New Haven USD; Parvin Ahmadi, Castro Valley USD; and Bruce Burns, Moraga ESD.



Felton Owens and Linda Hutcherson welcome Dr. Marguerite Williams, ACSA Sr. Director of Equity & Diversity who presented on "Unconscious Bias".



"Equity is not going to take hold unless it is embedded in our conversations and our work."



A group of dedicated leaders from Alameda USD attended with Leadership Coach Jane Lee.



Equity Warriors from Mt. Diablo USD seated with Leadership Coaches Evie Groch and Marcie Brown.



Another group of committed group of leaders are captivated by the Superintendents Panel.



These retired administrators and leadership coaches modeling lifelong learning.



Congratulations and Thank You, Bob Giannini!



After 13 years of leading and guiding ACSA Region 6, Bob Giannini announced his retirement from his position as the Region 6 Executive.

We congratulate and thank Bob for his outstanding leadership and dedication. He became an ACSA member in 1973 as a young administrator. Over the 45 years, he held many leadership roles at the charter, region, and state level in ACSA before becoming the Region 6 Executive.

Bob has been the face of ACSA in Region 6 and leaves a legacy of mentoring and supporting many leaders over the years. We wish Bob well in his retirement from ACSA. He will be receiving this year's Nels Nelson Award for his distinguished educational career at

our Awards Dinner on June 20. Come celebrate Bob with us.

I am honored to assume the position of Region 6 Executive after serving the past three and a half years as the Region 6 Consultant under Bob's tutelage. Steve Collins, recently retired Assistant Superintendent of Special Ed in West Contra Costa USD, has been appointed as the new Region 6 Consultant. Steve and I are here to serve you, the members of Region 6. Don't hesitate to contact us.

Rose Lock, Region 6 Executive



Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members:

Alameda

Jesse Woodward

Alameda COE

Shailesh Regmi

Contra Costa COE

Steve Bateman

Liberty UHSD

Tony Shah

Mt. Diablo USD

Patricia Kawahara

Kimberly Vaiana

Van Lay

Debra Maher

Newark USD

Vicenta Ditto

Barbara Meier

Wendy Castaneda

Pleasanton USD

Karen Johnson

San Ramon Valley USD

Cheryl DiGrazia

West Contra Costa USD

Claudia Velez

Mary Ann Lafosse

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

Angela Ehrlich (3), Dawn Edwards, Jeffrey Carr, Janet Gates, Rose Lock, Judith Goodwin, Louise Music, Elizabeth Pagano, Marsha Tokuyoshi, Nellie Meyer



Region 6 Newsletter

Congratulations to *Ben Campopiano* of Mt. Diablo USD and *Olanrewaju Ajayi* of West Contra Costa USD

who won Starbucks gift cards for carefully reading the November 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

[Rose Lock](#), Executive

[Steve Collins](#), 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 III

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
