

Please forward this newsletter to colleagues not yet ACSA members. This may give them a sense of our professional organization.



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

November 2020



President's Message

"Remarkable Leaders, Remarkable Times"

Hello, Colleagues!

I am guessing that many of our ACSA Region 6 members are looking forward to the end of 2020 as much as I am. Looking forward to leaving behind a wildly unpredictable - and unprecedented - year of health and safety concerns. Looking forward to moving on from the political conflict that was constantly in the news. Looking forward to a fresh start and a new year full of opportunity. The year 2020 is one we will always remember as citizens and educators, though many of us would certainly like to forget much of it.

But before we move on into 2021, I would encourage you all to reflect upon the incredible work that you have done with your schools and your districts in 2020. You led your school communities through the largest public health crisis in the recent history of our world. You rolled out a learning model that had never been attempted before with your site and district staff almost overnight. And you opened the current school year with more questions than answers. You have helped navigate an educational landscape rife with anxiety and uncertainty at every turn. Our work has never been more difficult, but you have done it.

It's important to recognize that most of our schools and districts are cautiously moving to develop plans for the return of students to our campuses in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Even though these initial reopenings will not be a cure-all for our current situation, they are a step in the right direction and will hopefully start the year 2021 with some much needed optimism. More than ever, our school communities need our leadership in

making these reopening efforts happen.

As we get closer to the holiday season each year, it is traditionally a time of reflection and celebration on the year that has passed. And as we move into November, I am hoping you take this opportunity to reflect on what has transpired in 2020 and give yourselves a chance to celebrate the end of a difficult year. Best wishes to all of you, your families, and your school communities this holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

[Jacob Berg](#)

ACSA Region 6 President

Principal, Pleasanton USD



A SHOUT OUT to some of our attentive readers who won Starbucks gift cards in a contest embedded in the last issue of Advance!

Nia Rachidchi (Castro Valley)

Akilah Byrd (Newark)

Lisa Gonzales (Mt. Diablo)

Farnaz Heydari (West Contra Costa)

Olanrewaju Ajayi (West Contra Costa)



Region 6 Welcomes New Superintendents

We congratulate and welcome the following new superintendents in Region 6 and wish them the best:

- Dan Moirao, Dublin USD
- Julie Synyard, Martinez USD



First Virtual Region 6 Administrators of the Year Awards Celebration Held On October 22

Region 6 finally celebrated our 2020 Administrators of the Year virtually on October 22. Over 400 people registered for the event. Thank you to ACSA President Dr. Ron Williams for joining us from Southern California to open the program. We were honored to have nearly all of our AOY winners present for the celebration and they were able to share their awards acceptance with our attendees on Zoom.

We apologize for the technical problems in the second half which prevented us from sharing all the pre-taped videos. All of the winners were asked to share some advice on bold and courageous leadership during this challenging time.

We have posted on the Region 6 homepage the links for the following:

- recording of the event
- pre-taped videos of all winners
- slide deck of the program



Celebrating all Region 6 Administrators of the Year



ACSA President, Ron Williams, congratulating R6 Administrators of the Year and welcoming attendees to the virtual celebration



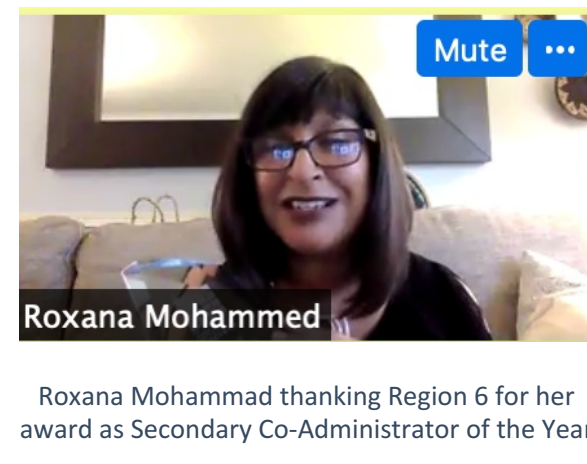
Pam Hughes, R6 Vice President of Programs, opening the 2020 AOY awards celebration



R6 2019-20 President, Pam VandeKamp, presenting awards to 2020 administrators of the year



Matt Sloan holding his award as Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year



Roxana Mohammad thanking Region 6 for her award as Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year



Middle Grades Principal of the Year, Lindsay Wisely, accepting her award with her children looking on



Nominee for State ACSA Marcus Foster Memorial Award, Affie Sklut, thanking her colleagues in Castro Valley USD



State winner for Student Services Administrator of the Year, Chris Calabrese, sharing his advice on bold and courageous leadership



Paige Endo, Adult Education Administrator of the Year, accepting her award



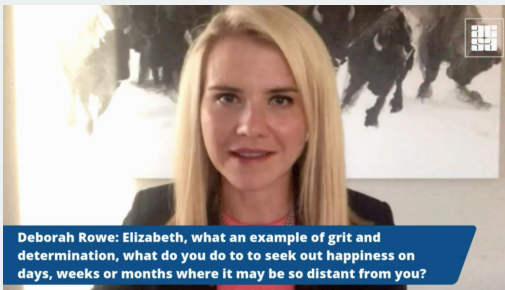
2020 ACSA Annual Leadership Summit ACSA Leaders: Champions for Every Child



This year's Leadership Summit was held virtually on November 5-6. It exceeded the expectation of attendees. While most ACSA members missed the face to face connections with other educational leaders from across the state, the content of the conference was outstanding as always. In addition to the two days of live sessions, there were over 50 pre-recorded sessions accessible all week.

Keynote speakers, Elizabeth Smart, Hamish Brewer, DJ Batiste and Donna Porter were inspirational and engaging. There were many sessions relevant to current issues faced by educational leaders such as distance learning, social emotional learning, virtual leadership, equity, conversations about race, technology gap, school morale and climate in remote learning environment. There were also sessions addressing career management and retirement.

The Every Student Succeeding Awards capped Thursday with a virtual presentation of winners from all the regions. Friday's program ended with the State ACSA Administrators of the Year Awards celebration where Region 6's Chris Calabrese was honored as the Student Services Administrator of the Year and Amy McNamara received her award for Valuing Diversity.



"It's not what happens to you that defines you, it's what you do next," kidnap survivor Elizabeth Smart speaking on trauma and resiliency



Hamish Brewer, known as the "Tattooed Skateboarding Principal", sharing his journey from growing up in a home disrupted by poverty, addiction, and family dysfunction to being named as a national distinguished principal



Trudy Arriaga, Stacie Stanley, and Delores Lindsey, authors of *Leading While Female A Culturally Proficient Response for Gender Equity*, sharing their motivation for the book



Region 6's own Amy McNamara and Belen Magers opening the conference on the main stage sharing their journeys and work as racial equity leaders in facilitating courageous conversations about race in their districts



2021 Administrator of the Year Awards

ACSA State Awards Program

So many heroes amongst us during this remarkable year! These awards are one way we can recognize our colleagues who are going above and beyond for what they are doing on behalf of students, families, staff, and community. There's no better time and opportunity to share their stories.

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, Ferd 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.

Please pass on the word to nominate fellow colleagues. Contact Vice President of Programs Pam Hughes at phughes@fusdk12.net if you have any questions. We all have so many outstanding deserving colleagues who are really stepping up during this remarkable time.

Except for the two State Awards (Ferd Kiesel & Marcus Foster), you must submit nominations through your Charter. Contact your [Charter President](#).



2021 Every Student Succeeding

ACSA believes every student deserves equal opportunities to succeed. On every school day throughout California, dedicated educators and courageous students overcome tremendous obstacles to reach their goals of academic excellence. Each year, ACSA recognizes 19 pre-K - adult students, one from each of our regions as well as two California adult education students, for overcoming the odds and achieving success.

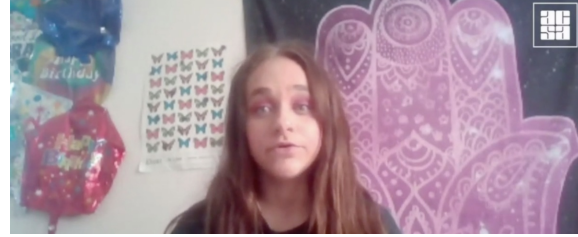
There are many deserving students in Region 6 and we encourage ACSA members to share these students' story. The winner receives \$1000 from Region 6 and another \$1000 from ACSA.

For nomination information, go to: <http://regions.acsa.org/6/awardsscholarshipsgrants/every-student-succeeding/>

Region 6 nomination deadline is February 26, 2021.



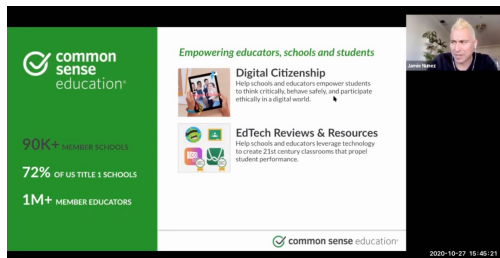
Region 6 Every Student Succeeding 2020 winner, Leilah Castle, recently graduated from Alhambra HS in Martinez. She was nominated by her principal, Matt Chamberlain.



Leilah sharing her appreciation for her award at the November 5 virtual ESS awards program



Professional Learning in Region 6



Common Sense Media is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of all kids and families by providing the trustworthy information, education, and independent voice they need to thrive in the 21st century.



Jamie Nunez, Common Sense Media Regional Manager, presenting in the second of three workshops to support leaders in a digital environment

Thriving On and Off the Vine

ACSA Region 6 members have taken advantage of several trainings as part of the **2020 Thriving Off the Vine Virtual Summit Series**. Topics have included Administrators Rights, Site Administration, Courageous Leadership, and Digital Wellness. These complimentary workshops are made possible by our sponsors.

Our next workshop is on **December 8, from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm**. Jamie Nunez, Regional manager at Common Sense Media, will explore ways administrators can integrate Social and Emotional Resources to provide safe online spaces. Join other regional leaders for

Diffusing Digital Stressors:

An admin's guide to identifying and responding to digital drama

Register at <https://acsa-r6-adminguidetodigitalstressors.eventbrite.com>

Region 6 Equity Symposium

The State ACSA Equity Committee meets throughout the year and is made up of representatives from all regions. Region 6 is represented by Tracie Noriega, our region's Equity Chair. The purpose of the committee is to build the capacity in equity leadership and cultural proficiency of all educators within the organization and throughout the state of California to effectively eliminate all equity gaps. At the Committee's November 3 meeting, members developed this working definition for equity.

Tracie also recently contributed to the Equity Corner in the October 5, 2020 issue of *Ed Cal*. If you missed her article "Developing critical consciousness during virtual learning," you can access it [here](#).

Tracie and the Region 6 Equity Committee have begun planning for the Third Annual Region 6 Symposium. [Contact her](#) if you are interested in being involved in this work in our region.

SAVE the DATE: Saturday, March 6, 2021

Equity is the moral imperative to provide access and supports for all marginalized persons to realize their personal best; liberating all through the eradication of systemic, cultural, and institutionalized forms of oppression.

Charter PD Events

The Amador Valley Charter is hosting a series of workshops on "Manifesting the Best in Your Life" on December 7, January 25, and February 15. All these sessions will be held via Zoom. Download the flyer [here](#).

The Diablo Valley Charter is hosting "Human Resources in a Virtual World" presented by Cheryl Cotton on December 8, 7:30 am. For more information, contact [Hilary Dito](#).



NEW! Coming to Region 6 - Administrators Job-Alike Networks

Hear ye, hear ye, assistant principals and vice principals!

In our continuing effort to support administrators, Region 6 is launching the first job-alike network for co-administrators in the upcoming months. The overarching goal of these networks is to provide opportunities to administrators to engage with, learn from and network with their job-alike peers. We can all

agree that these are remarkable times with little precedence for all of us regardless of our positions. Our support for each other is needed more than ever.

Spread the word to all co-administrators you know, non-ACSA members are welcome!



Women's Leadership Network

Our region is committed to continuing conversations that will support women leaders. If you are interested in being involved in planning this year's activities, email [Pam Hughes](#), VP Programs.



Region 6 Supports Its Members -

Professional Development Scholarships, Mini-Grants and Student Scholarships

Professional Development Scholarships for ACSA Academies

For the 2020-21 year, Region 6 awarded eight \$500 scholarships to the following members:

- Lorianne Ventura (Amador Valley Charter)
- Leonor Rebosura (Newark Charter)
- Annette Heldman (New Haven Charter)
- Lori O'Connor (Diablo Valley Charter)
- Matt Chamberlain (Diablo Valley Charter)
- Akilah Byrd (Newark Charter)
- Earl Crawford (ACOE Charter)
- Jason Arenas (ACOE Charter)

Congratulations to these ACSA members dedicated to their professional growth.

Mini-Grants

Our Region offers up to five mini-grants and up to \$1000 each for members' innovative projects that require some seed or matching funding. Deadline for applications is February 26, 2021. <http://regions.acsa.org/6/awardsscholarshipsgrants/mini-grants/>

Bob Blackburn Student Scholarships

Region 6 awards five \$1000 scholarships to children of ACSA members who are graduating high school seniors and plan to pursue higher education. Deadline this year is February 26, 2021. <http://regions.acsa.org/6/awardsscholarshipsgrants/scholarships/>



From Your Region Executive

Are you an ACSA Champion? Are you passionate about your work as an administrator? If yes, we need you on the Region 6 Leadership Team!

We are seeking candidates for the following elected positions in Region 6 for 2021-22:

- President-Elect (3 year commitment)
- Vice President, Staff Development (2 years)
- Vice President, Programs (2 years)
- Secretary (2 years)
- Treasurer (3 years)
- 2 At-Large Representatives (2 years)
- State ACSA Director (3 years)



For information about these positions, see [Bylaws](#) on Region 6 website.

We will also be filling the following appointed positions:

- Representative to the state Middle Grades Council (3 years)
- Representative to the state Retirement Committee (3 years)
- At-Large Representative to Leadership Assembly (1 year)
- 2 At-Large representatives to R6 Executive Committee (2 years)

If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact [Pam VandeKamp](#) or me.

Thank you for all you do each and every day for students.

[Rose Lock](#), Region 6 Executive



Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in August, September, October:

Alameda County Office of Ed

Jason Arenas, Ingrid Roberson

Brentwood UESD

Leonor Medina

Fremont USD

Monica Miller

Hayward USD

Yolanda Minor, James Vaughn, Mariana Triviso, Lisa Tess

John Swett USD

Tricia Isayi

Liberty UHSD

Christina Lewis-McGee, Andrew Strawbridge

Martinez USD

Melissa Sackett

Lori O'Connor

Moraga ESD

Kingsley Frazier

Mt. Diablo USD

Ron Little, Jr., Aya Rubio, Jennifer Carvalho

New Haven USD

Stella Castillo

Oakland Charter Academy

Kathie Cage

Oakland USD

Kyla Johnson-Trammell

Pleasanton USD

Lanita Villasenor, Jennifer Esparza, Carla Henderson

San Leandro USD

Robert Picciotto, Michael Tison-Yee

San Lorenzo USD

Amani Dunham, Larry Pratt

San Ramon Valley USD

John Malloy, Tammy Herley

Walnut Creek ESD

Ruben Fernandez, Jason Law

West Contra Costa USD

Nicholas Rey, Marcela Taylor

Thank you to the following ACSA member for recruiting new members this quarter:

Jacob Berg, Pam VandeKamp, Rachele Rogers-Ard, Aurelia Buscemi, Aurora Sweet, Essence Phillips, Robert Humphrey, Barbara Armstrong, Matt Chamberlain, Susan Bishop, Mildred Browne



Our Partners

We thank you for your support!



Check the [Region 6 Partners](#) page on our website for more information about our partners and links to their websites.



[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: Jacob Berg

President-Elect: Mark Neal

Past President: Pam VandeKamp

VP, Staff Development: Hilary Dito

VP, Programs: Pam Hughes

VP, Legislative Action: James Parrish III

VP, Membership: Renee Lama

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: Kathy LaCome

Comptroller: Annette Heldman

Equity Chair: Tracie Noriega

Communication Chair: Marcus Walton

ACSA Board Director: Parvin Ahmadi

At-Large Representatives: Raul Zamora, Chris

Calabrese, Cheryl Cotton, Christina Filios

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