

A REMARKABLE school year comes to an end for all our heroic administrators. Thank you for your dedication to your students, staff, and community.



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

June 2021



President's Message

"Remarkable Leaders, Remarkable Times"

Hello Colleagues!

There is nothing I can say about this school year that has not already been said. This "difficult" and "challenging" school year has given us a "new normal" and it was a year "like no other." Have you heard something like that before?

But for all of the hardships we faced in 2020-21, there were victories as well. ACSA Region 6 provided all-virtual professional development to all members free of charge. We produced **not one, but two** online awards ceremonies to recognize all of the accomplishments of our administrators of the year. Region members also attended the first ever virtual Legislative Action Day to communicate with local policymakers.

We should celebrate all of the great things that we were able to do, in spite of the difficulties and challenges. We worked hard to support all of our students in Alameda and Contra Costa counties through a variety of changes in guidelines and policies, often overnight. We should feel good about the work that has been done, and now we have a well-deserved break ahead of us.

I am excited for the 2021-22 school year and the potential that it brings in our "new normal" school environment, whatever that may be. I look forward to seeing you all at an ACSA event soon - hopefully in person!

[Jacob Berg](#)

ACSA Region 6 President
Principal, Pleasanton USD



Breaking News!

Registration for 2021-22 ACSA Academy Programs just opened! Check [ACSA](#) website. Keep in mind that Region 6 offers scholarships to members. Check our website in August.



Attention Retirees and Future Retirees!



Many ACSA retirees and STRS members may not even be aware of the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset — two federal laws that are unfairly reducing retirement benefits for public servants and their spouses. Now, as Congress is set to take up legislation to overturn these rules, the ACSA Retirement Committee is asking for help in protecting the retirement incomes of former, current and future educators.

“Our State Retirement Committee strongly supports the full repeal of the two Social Security penalties: WEP and GPO,” said Kathleen McCreery, chair of the ACSA Retirement Committee. “These Social Security benefit reductions have had a significant negative impact on the ability to recruit and retain teachers that are entering the profession as a second career and they negatively impact all educators for choosing a career of public service.”

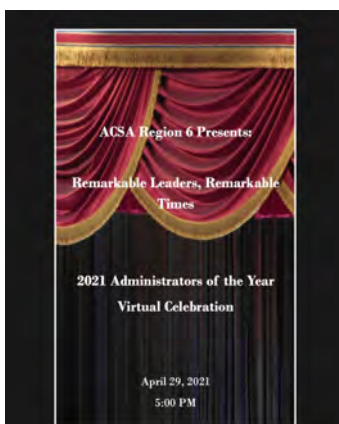
The WEP legislation was enacted in 1977 and is still in the books! In 2018 over 250,000 Californians were affected. There have been many unsuccessful efforts to eliminate this injustice over the years. Even if you are not retiring any time soon, this issue may impact you when the time comes.

“This is not a retiree issue. If not corrected it will affect every educator who will retire in the next 50 years or more. Get active — do this for yourself and those who will follow.” - Alice Petrossian, retirement committee liaison

Check [ACSA website](#) for more information and what you can do NOW.



Region 6 Administrators of the Year Awards Virtual Celebration on April 29, 2021



For the second year in a row, we are proud to be able to honor all of our Administrators of the Year in Region 6 in a virtual celebration. While we all miss the annual in-person festive awards dinner at an elegant and tranquil venue, it was important to showcase Region 6's outstanding leaders especially during a remarkable year. We received a record number of 94 nominations this year, indicative of the incredible leadership in our region. Goodie bags with the awards were delivered to all of our nominees and winners prior to the celebration. Thank you to the superintendents who personally delivered them to our honorees in their district.

As a region organization that thrives from volunteers, it was definitely a challenge to present a virtual event of this magnitude and technical complexities. Not to mention, we did it twice this school year! We could not have done them without our R6 Communication Chair Marcus Walton and Vice President of Staff Development Hilary Dito who produced both the fall and spring events. We are immensely grateful to these two ACSA leaders.

The April event was broadcast live on the Region 6 Facebook page. You can still access it via the Region 6 [homepage](#).



Region 6 President Jacob Berg welcoming guests to our virtual Administrators of the Year Celebration



Vice President of Programs Pam Hughes setting a celebratory mood for the annual awards celebration



ACOE Superintendent LK Monroe presenting the Partners in Educational Excellence Award to Union City Family Center



CCCOE Superintendent Lynn Mackey presenting the Valuing Diversity Award to Jorge Melgoza from Mt. Diablo USD



Presenters and Award winners joining Zoom from their home or office for the virtual celebration



Attendees hearing from each winner both in a pre-recorded video and live



Pleasanton USD Superintendent Haglund presenting awards to



Dr. Haglund and R6 Past President Pam VandeKamp



R6 Secondary Principal of the Year Kevin Ahern holding his awards



San Ramon Valley USD Superintendent Malloy presenting goodie bag to Tami Castellucio



Region 6 Co-Administrator of the Year Lauren Falkner receiving her award from her superintendent



Dr. Malloy delivering award to Christine Offerman at her school



ACSA 2021 Legislative Action Days - April 12 and 13



The 2021 virtual Legislative Action Day brought over 600 ACSA members together online to advocate for the needs of their students. They met with lawmakers via video conference and shared their stories about the return of students as pandemic restrictions are eased. Over 70 meetings were held between ACSA members from regions and their elected representatives.



Members participating in an interactive interview with SPI Tony Thurmond facilitated by ACSA Senior Directors Edgar Zazueta and Naj Alikhan.



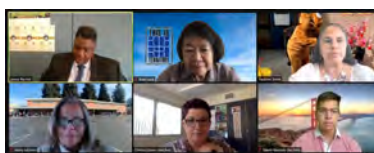
ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith welcoming over 600 members to the first virtual Legislative Action Day.



R6 Vice President of Leg Action leading a large delegation from our region.



Members hearing from Patrick O'Donnell, Chair of the



Region 6 delegates meeting with a staff member from Senator Nancy Skinners' office.





Professional Learning: Thriving *Off* the Vine 2021

It's been quite a year! Who knew 14 months ago that we would have to hold all of the Region 6 professional learning virtually. Thanks to our Vice President of Staff Development, Hilary Dito, who pivoted to a remote learning setup starting in March 2020. Our region had to cancel our annual Leadership Summit in June 2020 and again 2021 where we previously gathered in person at the beautiful venue Casa Real in Pleasanton.

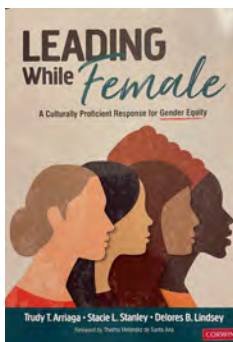
Region 6 was able to hold 21 virtual events this current school year! We started at the end of June 2020 with a presentation on digital wellness. In July, our state ACSA legal support staff provided a timely training on administrators rights, and Tovi Scruggs-Hussein inspired us with her presentation on Braving Trust as you planned for the start of the school year. During the year, we offered professional learning opportunities aligned to our region goals of equity leadership and supporting members. We launched our region's Co-Administrators Network. Our Women's Leadership Network engaged in a book study on women leadership and we were honored to have one of the book's authors, Dr. Trudy Arriaga, joined us for one of the sessions. Our R6 Human Resource leaders provided training to support our members in their professional career planning.

Professional learning and networking are always high priorities for our region. In light of this past year, we will be considering the best format for delivering professional learning to our members. Hopefully, some of them will be in-person! We continue to plan programs that are high quality and relevant to you. We always welcome input from our members. Please email [Lorianne Ventura](mailto:Lorianne.Ventura), our incoming Vice President of Staff Development, with your ideas.



Women's Leadership Network

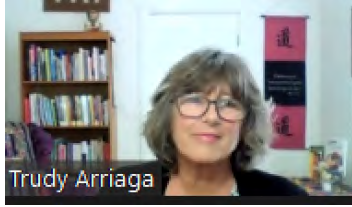
Leading While Female, A Culturally Proficient Response for Gender Equity



The Region 6 Women's Leadership Network held 3 virtual meetings during this school year. These meetings were based on the work of three outstanding women leaders: Trudy T. Arriaga, Stacie L. Stanley, and Delores B. Lindsey. Our book study on their book, **Leading While Female, A Culturally Proficient Response for Gender Equity**, generated much conversation and learning for participants.

At the first network meeting, Vice President Pam Hughes introduced the book to the group and led a great discussion. Each attendees received a copy of the ebook complimentary of Region 6.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Arriaga, one of the authors, facilitate the second WLN meeting. Some of the noteworthy information from her presentation can be found below. Her presentation certainly generated great conversations.



Author Trudy Arriaga engaging attendees in conversation about women leadership



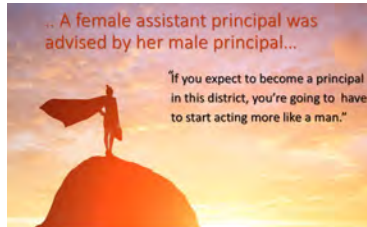
WLN providing time to reflect on the reality of being a women leader in our profession



Did you know?



This is a real story!



How would you react?



Men can be allies



The third network meeting featured a panel of 4 distinguished women leaders from our region: Lety Salinas, Assistant Superintendent of Fremont USD; LK Monroe, Superintendent of Alameda County Office of Ed; Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Contra Costa County Office of Ed; and Karen Sakata, retired Superintendent of CCCOE. Each of them shared their leadership journey and lessons along the way.

Region 6 member and attendee, Cynthia Rapaido, shared the following comments made by each panelist that were big take aways for her:

Lety: Pause and see if you want to stay in your current position. Sometimes one rushes and doesn't have time to really think about the next position and ends up just jumping into the next one.

Karen: Maybe give it a try when a position is suggested to you. Sometimes mentors will tap you and suggest positions to you. You may decline because you do not want to be pigeon-holed into the work others may see you do well in, but instead you may want to give it a try.

Lynn: You just be YOU! Like yourself! Like who you are. Be YOU! (If you are a quiet leader, it's okay!)

L.K. Monroe: Show up as a leader - even though you don't have all of the right answers!



ACSA 2021 Leadership Summit - save the date

The annual Leadership Summit is scheduled for November 4-6, 2021 in San Francisco. The planning committee is currently developing the format. Details will be coming!



ACSA Middle Grades Principal of the Year 2021

Region 6 winner Lorianne Ventura was selected as ACSA's 2021 Middle Grades Principal of the Year.

Lorianne will be recognized along with other 2021 statewide award recipients on November 5 at the annual ACSA Leadership Summit in San Francisco. See names of all state awards recipients on the ACSA website [here](#).

Look for their stories in upcoming issues of *EdCal*.



Parvin Ahmadi Elected as 2021-22 ACSA Vice President



At the May 24 Leadership Assembly, Parvin was elected as the next Vice President of ACSA. She is currently completing her 3-year term as the Region 6 representative on the ACSA Board of Directors. With this election, Parvin will become the President of ACSA in the 2023-24 school year.

We congratulate Parvin as she continues her ACSA leadership across the state in supporting public school students in California.



From Your Region Executive Director

Region 6 Leadership

Congratulations to the 2021-2022 Region 6 Leadership Team!

Executive Committee

President: Mark Neal

President-Elect: Tracie Noriega

Past President: Jacob Berg

Vice President of Leg Action: James Parrish

Vice President of Membership: Renee Lama

Vice President of Programs: Pam Hughes

Vice President of Staff Development: Lorianne Ventura

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: Kathy LaCome

Comptroller: Annette Heldman

State Board Rep: Sonja Neely Johnson

Equity Chair: Tracie Noriega

Communication Chair: Marcus Walton

At-Large Rep: Christina Filios

At-Large Rep: Nanette Gray

At-Large Rep: Evan Powell
At-Large Rep: Harvey Yurkovich

Committee/Council Reps:
ACSA/CAPEA: Michael Cubacub
Adult Education: Jeff Carr
Business Services: Allan Garde
Career Technical Ed: Amy Robbins
Classified Leaders: Nicole Joyner
Co-Administrators: Roxana Mohammed
Educational Options: Erik Taylor
Curriculum Instruction Assessment: Jennifer Sachs
Equity: Tracie Noriega
Elementary Ed: David Thornley
Human Resource: VACANT
Legislative Policy: Raul Zamora
Middle Grades: Jon Ovick
Small School District: Harvey Yurkovich
Student Services/Special Ed: Kirsten Zazo
Retirement: Gail Yothers
Secondary Ed: Matt Chamberlain
Superintendency: Matt Wayne

The Region 6 Board of Directors is made up of the Executive Committee, ACSA Committee/Council reps and Charter Presidents. Some of our charters are in the process of electing their president. We will announce those names in the next issue.

There are many opportunities at the charter and region levels for ACSA leadership. If you are interested in being more involved in ACSA, feel free to reach out to me or your charter president.

Wishing everyone some quality down time for rejuvenation. You certainly deserve it!
Thank you for your leadership.

[Rose Lock](#), Region 6 Executive Director



Retiring or Know Someone Who Is?

Congratulations to all our school leaders retiring at the end of the school year! Thank you for your service and contribution to a career where you made a difference. Please contact ACSA at memberservices@acsa.org to continue your membership in retiree status. **This is not automatically done and ACSA does not have access to information of impending retirements.**

Region 6 has a vibrant Retiree Charter with over 250 members. As a retiree member, you can access various ACSA benefits in your retirement. Our Member Assistance and Legal Support Team often get calls from retirees years after retirement about being named in audits or even lawsuits!



Partners/Sponsors Corner

ACSA Region 6 is grateful to have the support of our business partners. For this past year, their generosity of sponsorship allowed us to offer all our professional learning opportunities for free. Check out all our partners on the Region 6 website [partners/sponsors page](#).

Beginning with this issue, we will be sharing resources from our partners that we hope will be valuable to your leadership work. We also plan to share resources that are relevant to your everyday living. Feel free to share them with colleagues and staff. In this issue, we are sharing the following article from our Diamond Partner, Speech Pathology Group.



SPEECH | OT&PT | BEHAVIOR

Training for Paraprofessionals - Keys to a Successful Transition Back to the Classroom

After more than a year of disrupted learning caused by the pandemic, the need to support children's mental health and academic achievement has never been greater. Students will require extra care and attention from all adults; everyone from principals, teachers and classroom staff, including paraprofessionals.

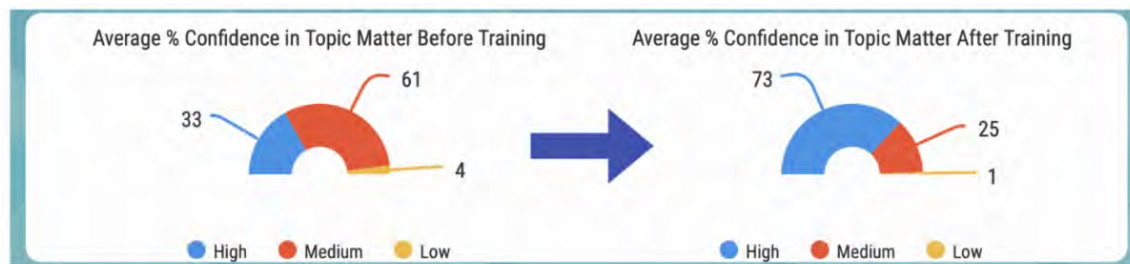
Paraprofessionals are the glue that hold the classroom community together. They assist by providing daily instructional, speech-language, health, motor and behavioral support to students. The National Education Association reported that roughly 80% of paraprofessionals work with students with disabilities and as such, they will play a critical role in paving the way for a successful transition back to in-person learning.

Training paraprofessionals should be a priority for every school district to support a smooth transition. Specifically, professional development focused on understanding and managing behaviors will be beneficial for students and the entire school community.

For example, when SPG, a multidisciplinary services provider, collaborated with Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) to provide a series of eight behavior-related trainings in 2020-21 to approximately 200 paraprofessionals, data from attendee feedback showed that:

- 96% would use what they learned in the classroom
- 73% reporting a high level of confidence after the training vs. 33% reported a high level of confidence in behavior-related material prior to training

Connect with SPG to learn more about our professional development opportunities for paraprofessionals, SLPs, OTs, PTs and school psychologists. [Click here for more info!](#)





Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in March and April:

Alameda USD

Jamilah Jones-McLean

Antioch USD

Kelly Quinn

Martinez USD

Amy Black

Mt. Diablo USD

Lorien Quirk, Claudia Rodriguez

Newark USD

Marie dela Cruz, Nicole Pierce

Oakley ESD

Brittney Huffman, Maria Davalos

Retiree Charter

Katie Hanau Gaines

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

Matt Chamberlain, Hilary Shen, Janelle Eyt



[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

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Past President: Pam VandeKamp

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