



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

August 2022

President's Message



Leading for Justice, a Work of "Heart"

Dear Region 6 Leaders,

Happy New School Year! As I write this, I am still on a high from our amazing leadership retreat last weekend. Thanks to our Charter Presidents, Council representatives, Consultants, and Executive Committee members for attending. I've always loved how we begin with some community building on Friday night. There's nothing like a little ax throwing at the end of a long week! Our discussions on Saturday were ON FIRE!! Many attendees used the word "energized" to describe their closing thoughts. I appreciate each and everyone who was able to join us and I look forward to building on the momentum we created.

On Saturday, we discussed ACSA's Mission:

"The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system, and the development and support of inspired educational leaders who meet the diverse needs of all California students."

Folks made connections to the aspect that we aren't there yet, at least for many students, especially our students of color. What does this mean for us?

Every year, the President gets to choose their theme or slogan, if you will. After much contemplation, I chose *"Leading for Justice, a Work of 'Heart.'"*

So why "Leading for Justice"? These last few years have been challenging in so many ways. As school leaders, we were charged with responsibilities that were never before

within the context of our roles or even “duties as assigned.” In this pandemic, we know that the conditions exacerbated the inequities that exist in our school system and society in general. COVID 19 shined the light on those inequities and systemic racism. Many call it a “dual pandemic,” one of which we have been in for hundreds of years. Region 6 has always been at the forefront of Equity discussions. We’ve supported our leaders with various professional development sessions through the years. As President, I want to challenge us to push our consciousness and actions toward dismantling systemic racism, truly being antiracist educational leaders, and creating a more just and liberated society.

As we do this work of dismantling a system that we work in, a system so entrenched in beliefs and practices, where do we get the courage and the strength? Paolo Freire wrote,

“Because love is an act of courage, not of fear, love is a commitment to others. No matter where the oppressed are found, the act of love is commitment to their cause--the cause of liberation.”

Our strength and courage, our “why” must come from love. Leading for justice is a work of “heart.” That “heart” requires that we care for ourselves and our well-being before we can attend to others. If not, we cannot be the best leaders we want to be.

So I call on everyone in Region 6 to commit to the cause. As we lead for justice, know that we will also attend to our “heart,” our health, and well-being, and we will all do this together. Changing patterns and practices rooted in beliefs will take all of us, all of the love we can build. I hope that we can be that movement, not just toward ACSA’s Mission but for Education and our future.

In Community,
[Tracie Noriega](#)
Region 6 President
and Equity Chair



Region 6 Welcomes New Superintendents

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

- Enikia Ford Morthel, Berkeley USD
- Crystal Castaneda, Byron ESD
- Monica Santiago (Interim), Canyon ESD
- Blaine Torpey, Eden Area ROP
- Chien Wu-Fernandez (Interim), Hayward USD
- Brent Stephens, Lafayette SD
- Chris Van Schaack, Livermore Valley JUSD
- Helen Rossi, Martinez USD

- Donald Evans, Piedmont USD

Thank you for your leadership!



Region 6 Membership Events



Mark your calendar to gather for a back to school social event hosted by Region 6!

It's been a long time since many of us have been able to meet up with ACSA colleagues and enjoy each other's company. Bring a friend or colleague, ACSA member or not-yet member. Choose from two dates and two locations for your convenience.

Tuesday, September 13 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm
The Lounge, Castro Valley Marketplace
3295 Castro Valley Blvd, Castro Valley

Wednesday, September 28 from 4:30 - 6:00 pm
The Lot, City Center
6000 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon
LOCATION TO BE CONFIRMED

Raffle prizes, extra ticket if you bring someone.

Look for reservation info coming out in the next few days.



2022 ACSA Leadership Summit



2022 ACSA Annual Leadership Summit November 3-5, San Diego

What ignites you to create change in your school system? What energizes you to do this work again and again, each and every day? How do you unite with other educators around creating more equitable experiences for your students? Join school leaders from throughout California as we share our passion for education at the 2022 Leadership Summit, which will be held Nov. 3-5, 2022 in San Diego.

This is ACSA's premier professional development and networking event, which will be guided by the theme: "Ignited, Energized & United: Equitable leaders equipped to serve."

IGNITED: Those who join us will find an unparalleled opportunity to learn and share with their peers on topics including equity, technology, staffing, data, student support, school climate and more.

ENERGIZED: Participants will experience three inspiring keynote speakers who will reinvigorate their practice. Dr. Victor Rios will change how we see at-risk youth with his personal story of going from high school dropout to professor; Jeffrey Robinson will explain why reckoning with the history of anti-Black racism in the U.S. is the only path toward racial equity and justice; and Erin Gruwell will share how believing in her students gave them the courage to rewrite their stories and become "Freedom Writers."

UNITED: Education leaders will join together in our common goal of serving students and creating equitable school systems in which they can thrive.

[Register now](#)



Region 6 Leadership Retreat - August 12-13



R6 President Tracie Noriega after a long day at work! Look who's watching?



R6 Leaders reconnecting over food and drinks



New Charter Presidents meeting veteran Region leaders



Lindsey Fuller, Executive Director of The Teaching Well, engaging R6 leaders in reflections and conversations about systemic wellness



R6 leaders sharing their thinking with each other



President Tracie Noriega welcoming R6 Board of Directors and sharing her ACSA journey



R6 leaders having some serious conversations about equity challenges in their districts and learning to use the ACSA Equity Tool



ACSA President-Elect Parvin Ahmadi updating R6 leaders on state ACSA



R6 is always honored to have Margie Cuizon-Armelino in our region and appreciative of all she does as ACSA Sr Director of Member Services

ACSA Region 6 represents 19 charters in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. These 19 charters represent 36 school districts, 2 county offices, and Cal State East Bay administrative credential students. The largest charter of retired administrators has over 250 members who are still very dedicated to our profession and ACSA. Region 6 is currently the third largest region and has about 1100 members.

The R6 Board of Directors is made up of Charter presidents, state committee and council representatives, and region officers. This year's retreat began with a community building event at Da Boccery in Livermore on Friday evening. Region 6 leaders enjoyed food and drinks together as well as some fun activities such as ax throwing!

On Saturday, Board members gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Livermore. ACSA President Elect Parvin Ahmadi and Senior Director Margie Cuizon-Armelino joined us to share updates about current ACSA activities during a major organizational transition while still maintaining laser focus on its mission of meeting the diverse needs of all California students. Members also learned about systemic wellness from Lindsey Fuller, Executive Director of the Teaching Well. Finally, there were much discussion and ideas generated that will help inform the work of our region for this year.

Region Executive Director Rose Lock and Region Consultant Steve Collins along with VP Programs, Pam Hughes, provided a virtual training the following week for Charter Presidents on the nuts and bolts of ACSA leadership and included information about the Administrators of the Year program for 2023.



Notable Legislations

ACSA is our voice and political advocacy is a major function of our professional organization. As members, we can't always be there ourselves. Thank goodness for our exceptional Governmental Relations staff representing us.

Here are some current legislations focused by the ACSA Governmental Relations Staff reported to our state Board recently and shared by our Board Rep Sonja Neely-Johnson.

- *COVID-19 Testing Plans—Senate Bill 1479 (Pan)*

This bill would have mandated that each LEA and every school in California designate a staff member to report COVID-19 testing information. Through ACSA's advocacy, the bill underwent significant amendments that eliminated the staff mandate as well as added a sunset date of December 31, 2025, and now requires local health departments to support the development of a testing plan for LEAs in their jurisdiction.

- *School Safety Safe to Tell Program—Assembly Bill 213 (Valladares)*

This bill creates a statewide tip line and a new division at the California Department of Education to receive tips of potential threats on school campuses. ACSA is concerned this will create a layer of bureaucracy between school leaders and critical information that will

delay response times to emerging issues. We are working to amend or stop the bill.

- *Full-Day Kindergarten—Assembly Bill 1973 (McCarty)*

This bill would have required LEAs to offer full-day kindergarten or forfeit their class-size reduction funding. ACSA was successful in reducing the bill to a more manageable place. The bill now removes any punitive provisions, but would still require districts and charters to offer at least one full-day kindergarten class at each school site beginning with the 2027-28 school year for districts that have a kindergarten enrollment of 50 percent or more UPP students. Full implementation for all districts starts in 2030-31.

- *Non-Domestic Agricultural Products—Senate Bill 1308 SB 1308 (Caballero)*

This bill would have prohibited LEAs from purchasing non-domestic agricultural products unless it is 25 percent below the domestic bid price. No provisions were included to protect LEAs from price gouging. Through ACSA's advocacy, the bill would have been severely amended but because the author refused, the bill was ultimately not set for a hearing.

- *LCAP Portal—Senate Bill 3 (Caballero)*

This bill would mandate CDE to create a public portal and require LEAs to submit their LCAPs into that portal. It is also the intention of this bill for there to be state oversight of the LCAP process and for LEAs to report their Supplemental and Concentration Grant dollar usage to the Legislature. ACSA helped lead a group of education partners to oppose the bill, and was key to getting our labor partners to sign on. As a result, the Assembly Education Committee refused to set the bill for a hearing.

Do you know that you can watch ACSA's weekly live legislative update every Wednesday at 1 pm on ACSA Facebook and YouTube? Legislative Lunch Break has great guests too! If you are unable to join live, check ACSA website, Advocacy page.

For more information and updates visit the [Advocacy page](#) on the [ACSA](#) website.

Voices of District Leaders Needed for Assembly Bill 130 **Can you give 15 minutes to *Make a Difference*?**

ACSA Legislative Advocate Diana Vu has appealed to our members for help to complete this survey:

LEA Differentiated Assistance Survey

This survey was developed by WestEd as part of the requirements in Assembly Bill 130 for an independent evaluation of Differentiated Assistance (DA). Your input is important and ensures the experiences of California's school district leaders help guide improvements to DA. Findings and recommendations from the study will be submitted to the legislature in January 2023 that will lead to direct changes to DA.

WestEd has had a very high response rate on their survey of county office of education DA providers, with 100% of counties responding. They want to ensure that they also have strong and representative input from district leaders. We believe this is critical to presenting a complete picture of DA in California, and to the development of recommendations to strengthen DA that reflect the perspectives of DA providers *and* recipients. We recognize how busy district leaders are and we thank you in advance for your participation in the survey.

Without the voices of district leaders, it is possible that DA could change in a way that is unintentionally burdensome for districts as the recipients of DA. This is a good opportunity to share your understanding of the implications of DA. The *confidential* survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete, and includes questions relevant to **all districts**, not just those districts who have received Differentiated Assistance. We hope you are able to fill out the [survey](#), which **closes at the end of August**.



2023 Administrator of the Year Award



ACSA State Awards Program - Let the nominations begin!

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.

As administrators, we do a great job in recognizing our students and our staffs. Let's make the effort to recognize our fellow administrators! We all have so many outstanding deserving colleagues who are really stepping up in the past two plus years. Let's recognize them for what they are doing on behalf of students, families, staff, community, etc. There's no better time and opportunity to share their stories.

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

Please pass on the word to nominate fellow colleagues. Contact Vice President of Programs [Pam Hughes](#) if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE: 2023 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner on April 27, 2023!



Professional Learning in Region 6

We are pleased to announce that Region 6 is joining with Region 5 (San Francisco and San Mateo) and Region 8 (Santa Clara) to host a Bay Area Equity Symposium in 2023. **Save the dates: February 17-18, 2023.** Please be on the lookout for our "Call For Presenters" in the upcoming weeks. If you would like to be involved in the planning of this exciting event please contact Region 6 President and Equity Chair, [Tracie Noriega](#).

Region 6 continues to be committed to supporting school leaders beginning their administrative journey. We will be exploring the creation of an affinity group for co-administrators. Email [Matt Chamberlain](#) or [Rose Lock](#) if you have ideas.

Our Vice President of Staff Development, Lorianne Ventura, will be sharing the 2022-23 Region 6 PD plan in upcoming communication. Check the Region 6 website regularly for updated information about professional learning. Of course, make sure you are also visiting the ACSA website for all the resources available to you.

Region 6 Mentor Program - a Membership Benefit

If you are an ACSA member in your first or second year of a new administrative position and would like confidential support from an experienced, caring administrator to help you navigate your new position, clarify your role, manage your time, and still have some balance in your life, the Region 6 Mentor Program is for you. You simply request a mentor by contacting Region 6 Coordinator [Julie Braun Martin](#) or by filling out the request form available on the [ACSA website](#) or [Region 6 website](#).

It is a free, confidential service. Your mentor will try to check in with you at least once a month. You decide what you want to talk about and the best way for you to stay in touch - in person or by social media. People who have participated in the program report “seeing my mentor was the highlight of my week”, a “life-changing experience”, a “great opportunity”, a good way to help me “gain perspective”.

If you are a recent retiree, we invite you to join the program as a mentor. Your knowledge, experience, and wisdom are invaluable to support our up and coming leaders.



Congratulations to the following Region 6 members who completed an ACSA academy in 2022:

- Lina Andersen
- Crystal Berry
- Jennifer Clark
- Mathew Clark
- Margaret daSilva
- Doris De La Torre
- Cheryl Di Grazia
- Stephanie Dictado
- Nimarta Grewal
- Patrick Hansen-Schmitt
- Tammy Herley
- Nicole Hurtado
- Shari Johnston
- Lauren La Plante
- Kelle Lynch McMahan
- William McGee
- Alexis Meron
- Claire Mognaga
- Olga Moreno-Coria
- Steven Musto
- Kimberly Noble
- Yoko Ostreicher
- Flor Anne Palma
- Shailesh Regmi
- Jeni Rickard
- Nicole Sandoval
- Ginger Selvaggio
- Affie Sklut
- Hilary Sowers
- Bridget Spires
- Blaine Torpey
- John Walker
- Nikki Washington
- Angela Webster
- Carrie Wells
- Sherea Westra
- Danielle Winford
- April Wong

ACSA Academies are the “fast-track” to leadership growth and career advancement for California school administrators. ACSA's job-specific academies in 10 leadership specializations provide a solid foundation of training in the application of leadership and management fundamentals. Participants experience 70 to 100 hours of high-quality instruction by expert Academy Directors and presenters during weekends throughout the school year.

ACSA Academies will convene in virtual/online and hybrid formats for the 2022-23 year. There are online options for all 10 leadership specializations, and hybrid academies are available for Personnel Administrators, Pupil Services, Special Education and Superintendents. Browse cohorts and register now at acsa.org/academies.

[Click here](#) for a copy of Academy-at-a-Glance to see all offerings. Check out all academy information on the [ACSA website](#).

Region 6 supports our members with professional development scholarships (\$500) for ACSA academies. Check eligibility and application on our [website](#). This is a reimbursement scholarship awarded upon completion. DEADLINE FOR 2022-23 APPLICATION IS NOVEMBER 1.



ACSA Membership is a Must for School Leaders



**If you are dedicated to our profession as a public school administrator, can you afford not to be an ACSA member?
It has been a part of many leaders' path to success.**

ACSA is THE professional organization for public education leaders in California. Are you maximizing the benefits of being an ACSA member? How often do you hear, "what do we get for being in ACSA?"

Check out [ACSA.org](https://acsa.org). There are numerous resources to support administrators in their professional growth. Have you seen the ACSA Resource Hub which is an online library of professional resources, articles, and videos? While you are on the website, look for all the learning opportunities to support your present and future career.

If you pay your ACSA dues annually, don't forget to renew your membership. If you have not received notification, contact memberservices@acsa.org.

ACSA membership application is available on the ACSA website. Share this link with friends and colleagues who are not ACSA members yet: [click here](#)

Check out [Region 6's website](#) as well. We make great efforts to keep our website current on our Region's resources such as grants, scholarships, awards, etc.

Lastly, forward this newsletter to friends and colleagues who are not yet ACSA members. Help support their professional career by helping them see the value of our organization.



ACSA Membership Profile Campaign

ACSA is asking our members to make sure all of their contact information is accurate. We are encouraging everyone to log into their online profile and make necessary updates there. The outreach will be conducted via email and hard mail. Please respond when you receive the communication.

Many R6 members have outdated profiles such as position, district, email.



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.



Retiree Charter

Our retiree charter continues to schedule three luncheons a year that provide a variety of programs to our members. As we move forward, the leadership board is seeking your input in offering thought provoking, entertaining and educational programs that interest you. With that in mind, we will be sending out a survey asking for your opinions on what types of programs you would like to see at our luncheons. We have also come to believe that with the continuing crisis of gun violence within our schools and communities action as a group is an area that we can also commit our energies along with a scheduled program. We will be sending a link which will ask you what level of activity you personally could provide to support our efforts in reducing gun violence.

As retirees, our hope is that you discover interacting with your peers three times a year in an informal and convivial environment provides enjoyable opportunities to learn, laugh and connect. Please look for our survey and link and we hope to see you at our first luncheon on October 11.

Sandra Prairie
Charter President

* Retiree members should have received a letter sent via US mail and an email with relevant information and [survey link](#) around August 8-10. If you haven't completed the survey, you can use this link.



From Your Region Executive Director

Happy new school year! Thank you for all you are doing as you continue to provide leadership and support to those around you and for the sacrifices you are making in your family and personal life. You have continued to carry on with positivity and bright smiles for your community as we find ourselves in the middle of the third year of this lingering pandemic.

I would also like to acknowledge our Region 6 leaders during this time. Our officers, Charter Presidents and Committee/Council Reps are all volunteers. They are serving our professional organization in a leadership capacity in addition to the demands of their "day job" and family responsibilities. They do it because they are dedicated to a profession of educational leaders who are committed to public education in California.

Thank you to these 2022-23 Charter Presidents for their ACSA leadership at the local level:

Lynnette Chirrick (Alameda)
Vacant (Alameda COE)
Janet Gates (Amador Valley)
Lisa Maclean (Castro Valley)
Amy Wallace (Delta)
Evan Powell (Diablo Valley)
Christina Filios (Diablo Managers Association)
Soledad Padilla (Hayward)
David Thornley (Fremont)
Valerie Nebo (Livermore)
Heather Thorner (New Haven)
VACANT (North Alameda)
Vicenta Ditto (Newark)
VACANT (Oakland)
Paulette Smith (San Leandro)
Rochelle Hooks (San Lorenzo)
Peg Winkleman (CSU East Bay)
Ryan Shaw (West Contra Costa)
Sandra Prairie (Retiree)

We also welcome the following members who assume leadership roles in Region 6. They represent our region at state ACSA councils and committees:

- CJ Cammack, Superintendency Council
- Heidi McFadden, Adult Education Council
- Julie Duncan, Career Technical Education Council
- Daryl Camp, Leadership Development Committee

We continue to strive to make our organization relevant and indispensable. We want to be the place you turn to first for camaraderie, for moral support, for continuing learning, for resources even when face-to-face encounters and physical proximity are still difficult.

Check our [Region 6](#) website. Contact information for all your Region 6 leaders can be found there. We want to hear from you as we continue to navigate the evolving conditions for leading teaching and learning.

Thank you for all you do each and every day for students. Please take care of yourself, too!

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



Welcome to New ACSA Members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in May, June and July:

Acalanes UHSD

Lynna McPhatter Harris

Antioch USD

Melissa Wilson

Berkeley USD

Susanne Reed

Byron ESD

Kelly Townley

Contra Costa COE

Robert Bowers, Brandy Byers

Hayward USD

Waylon Miller

Livermore Valley JUSD

Lyndsie Memory, Doniuelle Machi

Mt. Diablo USD

Megan Estenson, Susan Hartwig, Tiffany Jackson, Kristi Kaufenberg, Rebecca Schnee

Martinez USD

James Stewart

Oakley UESD

Erica Curiel

San Leandro USD

Monica Manriquez, Fleurdeliz McJilton

San Lorenzo USD

Zachary Kahn

West Contra Costa USD

Greg Whaling

Retiree Charter

Beverly Hansen

Student and Associate Members

Patricia Bascomb, Natalie LaFrance

Thank you to ACSA member for continuing to recruit new members!

Carrie Wells, Reyes Gauna



Region 6 Partners Corner

Our partners' donations allow us to offer high quality professional development and programs that serve our members. We are grateful for their support of public education leaders. Learn more about these partners on our website [Partners page](#).



[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)

[Region 6 Website](#)

Region 6 Staff

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director

[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

Region 6 Leadership

President: Tracie Noriega

President-Elect: Raul Zamora

Past President: Mark Neal

VP, Staff Development: Lorianne Ventura

VP, Programs: Pam Hughes

VP, Legislative Action: Kathy LaCome

VP, Membership: Renee Lama

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: Annette Heldman

Equity Chair: Tracie Noriega

Communication Chair: Marcus Walton

ACSA Board Director: Sonja Neely-Johnson

At-Large Representatives: Christina Filios,

Nanette Gray, Evan Powell, Harvey Yurkovich

The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system, and the development and support of inspired educational leaders who meet the

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