

2024-25 is off to a great start. Read on to find out more about what's coming up in Region 6 in 2025.



# Advance Newsletter

association of california  
school administrators

region 6

November 2024

## President's Message



### ***Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind***

Happy November AND Happy (almost) Thanksgiving Break!

I hope the start of the 2024-2025 school year has been successful for you and that the teaching and learning have been inspiring. It's hard to believe that November is here and the holidays are right around the corner. As each year progresses, I have never grown accustomed to how quickly the school years, and time in general, moves along. It feels like we just started the 2024 – 2025 school year and, before we know it, it will be half over.

Honestly though, I love this time of year – the changing color of the leaves, the falling temperatures and the warmth of spending time with family and friends...and college football (Go Bears!) With the temperatures dropping and the Thanksgiving and Winter breaks almost upon us, it gives us a chance to reflect on the first half of the year.

Take time to review your notes of the first semester. Assess your programs, decide to either continue your current path or make slight course corrections. My desk, computer and backpack are littered with post-it notes of reminders, the to-do's and the don't forgets. It's a disorganized system, but the reminders help frame my thinking for the work ahead.

Speaking of the work ahead, in 2025 we'll be planning for the changes in political administrations, new laws/Ed Code and being mindful of the difficult budgetary times looming on the horizon. We will need those notes and reminders to help guide us forward so that we don't get lost in the inevitable noise. I had a former colleague tell me that once the new calendar year arrived, the previous school year plans and aspirations were over and it was time to start

planning for the next school year. What's working? What's not working? What new initiatives would you like to launch?

Region 6 has of plenty to look forward to in 2025 - the Equity Institute and Legislative Action Days in March, our Region 6 Awards in April and our Region 6 Conference in June. Not to mention our Job Alike Mini-Academies, Socials, Partner Activities, Charter events and so much more. As we approach the end of the year, I'd like to thank the Region 6 Executive Committee, the Region Board of Directors and especially Rose Lock and Steve Collins for their leadership and support. On behalf of your Region 6 leadership, thank you all for your amazing work.

Onward,  
Matt

[Matt Chamberlain](#)  
Region 6 President (24-25)



## Region 6 National Blue Ribbon Schools

Recently, 30 California schools were selected as 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious award honors schools that close achievement and opportunity gaps and where students achieve high learning standards. Region 6 is proud to have 6 schools chosen: Alameda Science and Technology Institute (Alameda USD); John Muir Elementary (Berkeley USD); Creekside Middle (Castro Valley USD), Warm Springs Elementary (Fremont USD); Southgate Elementary (Hayward USD); and Madison Elementary (San Leandro USD). Congratulations!



Madison Elementary School Principal Paulette Smith celebrating with her students



Creekside Middle School Principal Susan Shih, students and school mascot celebrating in the Castro Valley Light Parade

### Principal Smith Honored with National Terrel H. Bell Award

In addition to her school being named as a National Blue Ribbon School, Region 6 leader Paulette Smith was one of 2 California Principals recognized individually for their outstanding leadership.



Paulette was 1 of the 9 Blue Ribbon School Principals being singled out for their leadership



Dr. Michael McLaughlin, Superintendent of San Leandro USD, joining Paulette in the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.



## Region 6 Launches Job Alike Mini Academies

On November 7, the Principals and Co-Administrators Job Alike groups met in person at CCCOE for the first meeting of their mini academy. These two groups will be meeting two more times in person and two other times virtually. The Principals group is being facilitated by Dr. David Franklin and included principals with experience ranging from 1st year to veterans with over 10 years. Similarly, the Co-Administrators group also included co-administrators with similar range of experiences with Dr. Cynthia Rapaido as facilitator/presenter. Over 40 site administrators attended the first session. They are to be commended for making the time after a long day at their school to participate in this learning and networking opportunity for their own professional growth.



Dr. Rapaido engaging co-administrator participants in partner sharing



Dr. Franklin supporting conversation among principals in small groups



A big shout-out to all these site administrators coming at the end of their work day for professional development



## ACSA Leadership Summit 2024

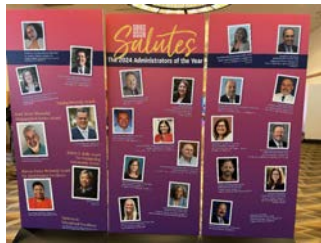


More than 40 Region 6 members were among over 700 leaders who gathered on November 14-16 in San Diego for ACSA's 2024 Leadership Summit. The two and half day conference focused on nurturing our health, hearts and minds as leaders. Hong Nguyen from SRVUSD was part of a presentation titled "Authentic Joy Luck Club: Embracing the AANHPI Female Wellness and Rebellion Journey." Other sessions included "Emotionally Healthy School Leadership," "Care for Yourself, Care for Others." There were yoga classes and a wellness center offering chair massages. Additional sessions addressed AI, legislative advocacy, student voice, ethnic studies, retirement, etc.

One of the highlights was the Every Student Succeeding presentation where we heard inspirational stories of our student honorees from all 19 ACSA regions. We were so proud of our Region 6 award recipient Adam Tobar from San Leandro USD.

The ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration was held on Friday evening with close to 400 guests honoring winners from across the state. Region 6 was represented by Efa Huckaby who was selected as Secondary Principal of the Year. Efa's family as well as a large contingent of colleagues from Liberty Union HSD attended the festive event.

If you did not attend this year's conference, don't miss out on the 2025 Summit which will be held in San Francisco!



ACSA Administrators of the Year being celebrated at the Summit



Superintendent Adam Clark and his team from Mt. Diablo USD



Region 6 crew waiting to board their flight to San Diego



R6 Every Student Succeeding Award winner Adam Tobar with ACSA Executive Director Edgar Zazueta and President Rafael Plascencia



Adam and his proud parents after the ESS presentation at the Summit



Hong Nguyen presenting a session on AANHPI female wellness



R6 Partner Scholastics hosted a welcome dinner for Region Board Members



R6 leaders breaking bread on the eve before the Summit



A rare opportunity for Executive Committee members Kathy LaCome, Pam VandeKamp and Lorne Barbosa to chat



ACSA President-Elect Daryl Camp presenting the Secondary Principal of the Year Award to R6's Efa Huckaby



R6 is so proud of Efa, the Principal of Liberty High School



Efa with Liberty Union HSD Superintendent Denise Rugani who attended with a team of district administrators



Nearly 400 guests attended the Awards Dinner honoring ACSA's award recipients



Region 6 leaders Nancy Martinez, Lori Ventura, Renee Lama and Pam VandeKamp celebrating ACSA honorees



Juwen Lam, Raul Zamora and R6 President Matt Chamberlain representing our region at the Awards Dinner



## Region 6 Membership Networking Socials

*Good for your mental health!*

Our two fall socials in September gave our members an opportunity to relax and enjoy each other after a busy month. Thank you to the Delta Charter for co-hosting the event in east Contra Costa County on September 12. The September 27 event was co-hosted by our Fremont and Newark Charters in Newark. We also thank some of our partners who attended and/or provided prizes for our raffle.

Similar to last year, these membership events are free and are being held in various parts of our region. Look for information for our 2 spring socials coming

in March. Make the time to treat yourself to conversations and refreshments with other like-minded school leaders!



A happy group from Pittsburg USD



Delta Charter members chatting with President Matt Chamberlain



Delta Charter President Anthony Molina presenting Erin Roberts with one of the raffle prizes



R6 Vice President Harvey Yurkovich welcoming R6 Partners from Lego and Cal Casualty



Raul Zamora and ACSA President Elect Daryl Camp catching up at the social



Fremont Charter members enjoying each other



## ACSA Professional Learning 2024-25

**ACSA Equity Institute  
March 12-14, 2025 in Berkeley**

**SAVE THE DATE**

For the past two years, Region 6 collaborated with Regions 5 and 8 in offering the Bay Areas Equity Symposium. For 2025, ACSA's Equity Institute will be held in Berkeley and the three regions will be co-hosting this conference with ACSA. Look for registration information coming from ACSA shortly.

**2025 Every Child Counts Symposium  
January 13-15, 2025 in San Diego**



**Empowering  
Leaders to Navigate  
New Frontiers**

2025 EVERY CHILD COUNTS SYMPOSIUM  
JANUARY 13-15, 2025 | MARRIOTT MARQUIS | SAN DIEGO

Student services and special education teachers, staff, specialists and leaders are constantly faced with new challenges. Ongoing, high-quality and intense professional development is essential to helping these educators navigate the new frontiers they

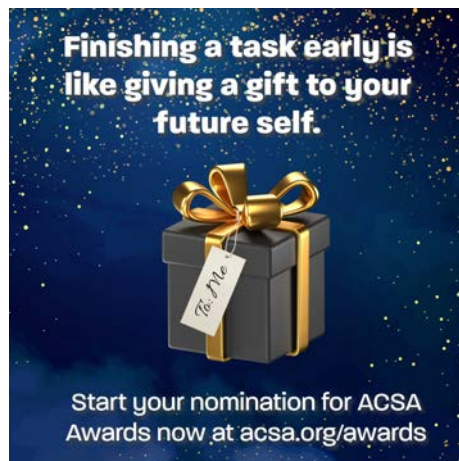
encounter every day.

ACSA's Student Services and Special Education Council invites you to the 2025 Every Child Counts Symposium. This year, we will be "Empowering Leaders to Navigate New Frontiers" with sessions highlighting the best current practices in the field of student services and special education. This world-class learning event held Jan. 13-15 in San Diego, features exciting workshops, inspiring keynotes, opportunities for skill development and networking, and always a few fun surprises!

[Register NOW](#)



## ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards 2025



Every ACSA member knows a colleague deserving of recognition. Make sure they know about the upcoming Awards Program and the importance of starting their nominations early. It's a great opportunity for members to:

- Contribute to this annual ACSA tradition.
- Recognize a deserving colleague/fellow ACSA member for their contributions to the profession and dedication to students.
- Help bring positive attention to the profession.

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.

The ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards are all done online. [Click here](#) to the Region 6 website for timeline and additional information.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**2024 Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner on April 17, 2025!**



## Region 6 Annual Conference Returns in 2025

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 12, 2025**



  
**THRIVING AS WE SHINE**  
 LEADING WITH  
 HEART AND MIND  
**ACSA REGION 6**  
**CONFERENCE**  
 MARK YOUR CALENDER!  
 DOUBLE TREE PLEASANTON

Have you been missing Region 6's annual conference "Thriving on the Vine"? It was last held in 2019 and cancelled in 2020 with the Covid shutdown! This end of the year event is returning in June 2025. Look for our call for proposals in upcoming weeks. We hope to showcase all the wonderful work in Region 6 as we celebrate the culmination of the 2024-25 school year. Get the date on your district's calendar. This will be a great opportunity for district management teams to get together and celebrate your accomplishments.



## Remembering John Searles



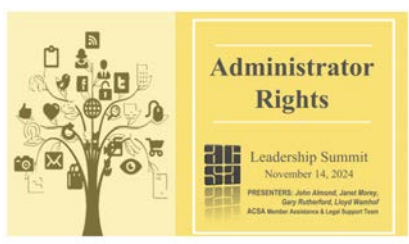
"96 years of a life well lived." On October 24, 2024, Region 6 lost a beloved educational leader, John Searles.

After serving in the Korean War, John pursued a career in public education, eventually becoming Superintendent of Schools for Martinez and then Alameda Unified School Districts and retiring in 1993. He would continue to support school administrators at ACSA. He served as the Region 6's Consultant along side of Executive Bob Giannini until he retired again in 2015. John will be remembered for his leadership, positive attitude, and sense of

humor among all the educators who were blessed to have worked with him. If you would like to contribute to John's legacy, please consider a donation to the Searles Family Scholarship - an award given to a graduating senior at Alhambra High School.



## From Your Region Executive Director



### The Rights of California School Administrators

I was able to attend a "back by popular demand" session on Administrator Rights at the Leadership Summit. I have attended this session many times and always found the information invaluable. This is one of the most important benefit for ACSA members. Here is a summary of the presentation.



The ACSA Member Assistance & Legal Support Team (MALST) assists approximately 800 members every school year on a variety of issues. This past year, 125 members asked for assistance in dealing with March 15 Notices (Demotion/Reassignment/Termination) and/or a Non-Reelect Notice; 19 needed assistance with Settlement Agreements; 92 administrators requested assistance with being placed on Administrative Leave due to a complaint filed against them; 31 members needed help with allegations filed against them with the CTC; 30 called about a staff member filing a complaint against them, and 43 called regarding discord with their supervisor.

The MALST is made up of 7 extremely knowledgeable advocates with many years of experience at all levels. At the presentation, the team shared 8 actual scenarios representative of the cases that come to them. I recommend reading these scenarios because they will sound familiar and relevant to most of us.

[Click here](#) for a copy of the slides. You can also find articles with advice from our MALST advocates on [www.acsa.org/legal-support](http://www.acsa.org/legal-support).

### **Every Student Succeeding Recognition Program**

This ACSA program honors students who exceed expectations and the educators who support them along the way. These award recipients are extraordinary examples of perseverance, dedication, maturity, and grace.

At the November Leadership Summit, our Region 6 winner Adam Tobar attended the ceremony with his parents. Thank you to his principal Paulette Smith and the rest of the support team from San Leandro USD. We are so proud of Adam. Here's a video about Adam: <https://youtu.be/FaKkN2tEm6A?feature=shared>. You will be inspired!

Nominations for 2025 Awards have begun. For more information and the nomination form, [click link to ACSA website](#).

Lastly, I want to thank our Region 6 Partner, Scholastics, for hosting members of the Region 6 Board of Directors for a scrumptious dinner on the eve of the Leadership Summit in San Diego. Our partners' support of our region's programs and members are most appreciated. See below for all our Region 6 partners for 2024-25.

Have a wonderful holiday season! ACSA is here for you.

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



## Welcome to New ACSA Members



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

**Acalanes UHSD**

Leigh Gregory

**Alameda USD**

Eric Leung, Jessica Lucio, Angela Barrett, Chandini Stanley, Kathryn Davis, Shana Riehart

**Alameda COE**

**Antioch USD**

Jackie Cortez, Jessica Erickson

**Berkeley USD**

Rhonda Cervante, Loriann Casillas

**Byron UESD**

Tanya Voqui

**Castro Valley USD**

Elizabeth Contreras, Robert Scarper

**Dublin USD**

Graham Beatts, Marco Taylor

**Eden Area ROP**

Mark Rizkallah, Michelle Stephens

**Fremont USD**

Jaclyn Nefdt

**Hayward USD**

Bernardo Varela, Heather Lechner, Rina Serrano, Christopher Harrell, Francisco Gallardo, Alma Hernandez, Jermaine Shaffer, James Schott

**Mt. Diablo USD**

Daniel Buhler, Lisamarie Gascot Reyes, Edmund Perryman, Melissa Brennan, Kelly DeTorres, Amy Sudria, Rimy Dhillon, Creston Higgins, Kellie Hoover, Janis Heden, John Rubio

**New Haven USD**

Karen Florendo

**Newark USD**

Karen Allard

**Oakland USD**

Dung Nguyen, Roma Groves-Waters, Kianga Lee-Curtis

**Oakley UESD**

Kate Vela, Jennifer Mark

**Piedmont USD**

Melissa Daymond

**Pittsburg USD**

Joanne Ireland, Zarina Tillman-Perry, Cameron Attaran, Shundra Johnson

**San Ramon Valley USD**

Erin Cicatelli, Neku Pogue, Jeffrey Osborn, Mona Manghirmalani, Lydia Rice, Mona Keeler, Leona Lam, Adria Ibarra, David Miller, Megan Keefer, Donna Grim, Jennifer Malakoff

**Walnut Creek ESD**

Elizabeth Duran Contreras

**West Contra Costa USD**

Jawan Eldridge, Rosa Chavarria

**Retirees**

Dennis Berger, Kimberly Ortiz, Michele Brynjuldon, Gail Drake

**Thank you to ACSA member for continuing to recruit new members!**  
Aurora Sweet (2), Kristen Berg Matt Chamberlain (2), Christina Filios, Rose Lock, Catherine Cabral,  
Farnaz Heydari, Anthony Oum, Michaelene McKelvey, James Parrish, Marylou Young



## Region 6 Partners Corner

We are grateful to our Partners for their continuing support of our region's programs. Thank you to all the partners who have renewed their partnership with our region for 2024-25. We welcome back a long-time partner, Curriculum Associates, at the Diamond Level.

Our partners' sponsorships allow us to offer high quality professional development and other 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](#).

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### Welcome New Region 6 Partners

#### Curriculum Associates

We welcome back, Curriculum Associates, a long time



Region 6 Diamond Partner.

"Student learning is at the core of everything we do at Curriculum Associates. That's why our goal is to empower educators with tools, resources, and research so that every learner grows to their greatest potential. For more than 50 years, we've worked to develop educational solutions that put insightful data into educators' hands, help them tailor instruction to their learners' needs, and save them time with evidence-based solutions that are proven to work."

Website: [curriculumassociates.com](http://curriculumassociates.com)



### Franklin Covey Education

FranklinCovey Education builds exceptional leaders at every level. From the classroom to the boardroom, our Leader in Me process helps schools and districts build leadership and life skills in students and staff members, create high-trust culture, and accelerate academic achievement.

Website: [leaderinme.org](http://leaderinme.org)



#### 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: Matt Chamberlain  
President-Elect: Lorianne Ventura  
Past President: Jacob Berg  
VP, Staff Development: Christina Filios  
VP, Programs: Paulette Smith  
VP, Legislative Action: Kathy LaCome  
VP, Membership: Harvey Yurkovich  
Secretary: Janet Gates  
Treasurer: Matthew Fielder  
Equity Chair: Hong Nguyen  
Communication Chair: Pam VandeKamp  
ACSA Board Director: Raul Zamora  
At-Large Representatives: Lorne Barbosa, Jenny Vargas, Efa Huckaby, Lynn Mackey

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators is to advocate in the best interests of students and to develop, empower and inspire equity-minded educational leaders.

Visit our Website