

Sharing many good news, read on! There's a lot going on in Region 6 from now until the end of the school year. Don't miss out! We would love to connect with you at our events.



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

March 2025

President's Message



Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind

Happy March!

March marks the gateway to spring, bringing with it fresh energy and new opportunities. As we move into this vibrant season, we also find ourselves in a time of transition and challenge. Budget uncertainties at the district, state and federal levels continue to create obstacles, making our work more complex—but also more important than ever. It's hard to believe that with the start of March, two-thirds of the school year will have already passed. The final stretch of the 2024–25 school year is upon us, and the momentum is building. From March through June, the focus is on finishing strong, having difficult but nonetheless important conversations, supporting our students, and preparing for the year ahead.

Reflecting on my time as a site principal, spring always brought a smile to my face. The warmer weather, the extended daylight, and the sense of accomplishment I felt as we approached the finish line were energizing. It was also the season for forward-thinking—evaluating the work being done and planning for an even stronger year ahead. As Region 6 President, I began this year with a clear vision—strengthening our collective efforts in networking, legislative action, and membership development, while inspiring all administrators to embrace *Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind*. Our work is not easy, but it is deeply meaningful.

As we start the final stretch, I encourage you to keep a student-first mindset in all that you do. Act with urgency. Engage with those who may be hesitant to change. Tackle the challenges that seem insurmountable. Ask the hard questions, collect the data, and use it to drive meaningful conversations. Approach every day with resilience, knowing that the work you do matters.

Be that unstoppable force for education. Be Bold and Courageous in your work. Take on the right battles, even when they are not the easiest or most popular. As the saying goes, "If not us, then who? If not now, then when?" Let's move forward with confidence and purpose—our students are counting on us.

Wishing you a productive and inspiring March!

Onward,
Matt

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



2025-26 Region 6 Executive Committee Announced

Congratulations and appreciation to these leaders in Region 6:

- Lorianne Ventura, President
- Christina Filios Yiannakopoulos, President-Elect
- Matt Chamberlain, Past President
- Efa Huckaby, Vice President of Legislative Action
- Paulette Smith, Vice President of Programs
- Hong Nguyen, Vice President of Staff Development and Equity Chair
- Erin Roberts, Vice President of Membership
- Valerie Nebo, Secretary
- TBD, Treasurer
- Raul Zamora, Representative to ACSA Board of Directors
- Pam VandeKamp, Communications Chair
- Lorne Barbosa, At-Large Representative (Contra Costa County)
- Nia Rashidchi, At-Large Representative (Alameda County)

Two additional At-Large Representatives will be appointed by the Executive Committee.



ACSA Support for Members

Region 6 Invites You to a virtual presentation on Administrator's Rights

March 15 notice
Reassignments
Due Process

Joe Jones
ACSA Member Assistance Advocate from Legal Support Team

Monday, March 24, 2025
4:00 -5:00 pm
on Zoom

[Sign up required](#) to receive Zoom link

Questions can be directed to R6 Executive Director [Rose Lock](#)



Region 6 Student Scholarships

Bob Blackburn Student Scholarships

On the recommendation of the 2024 Scholarship Committee, the Region 6 Executive Committee voted to increase each Bob Blackburn Student Scholarship from \$1000 to \$2000 for 2025. Students whose parent or guardian is an ACSA Region 6 member and are graduating high school seniors are eligible to apply. Congratulations to the following students have been selected to receive this year's scholarships.

- Avery Wood (Parent Eric Wood)
- Brady Cannon (Parent Mike Cannon)
- Ian Witczak (Parent Bethanee Witczak)
- Diego Castaneda (Parent Crystal Castaneda)
- Joshua Lang (Parent Craig Lang)

Frank Wells Memorial Scholarship

A new scholarship was established last spring in honor of the late Dr. Frank Wells who was an active R6 leader and Superintendent of Albany USD. This \$2000 scholarship is awarded to an African American student graduating from a Region 6 high school and planning to attend a college, university, or community college. (No requirement for parent membership in ACSA). We received applications from so many outstanding students in the program's first year that our Scholarship Committee requested additional funding to support this scholarship. At the March 7 meeting, the R6 Executive Committee allocated an additional \$8000 to fund a total of 5 scholarships this year!

Congratulations to the following students.

- Soren Bumpus (Livermore Valley JUSD)
- Delina Kasa (Albany USD)
- Jaliyah Robinson (Liberty UHSD)
- Salem Tesfaye (Albany USD)
- Billy Tucker III (Pittsburg USD)

A special Region 6 Student Awards Reception will be held on April 29 to honor all of our students.

Thank you to the following retired ACSA members on our scholarship committee for their time to evaluate all the applications and select the recipients - Susan Keeffe, Sue Kahn, Pam VandeKamp, Anna Blackman, Donna Yokomizo, David Thornley, and Richard Lloyd.



Every Student Succeeding

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.

Mathys Joseph, a high school senior nominated by Mt. Diablo USD Administrator Rosie Reid, has been selected as the Region 6 ESS Winner. He will be honored at the ACSA State Conference in San Francisco in November where he will receive a \$1000 award. Look for the upcoming ACSA interview and video featuring Mathys' inspiring story. He will also be receiving a \$1000 award from Region 6. Congratulations, Mathys!

We also congratulate the following R6 ESS finalists who will each receive a \$250 award.

- Omar Alshantti, nominated by Lorianne Ventura, Dublin USD
- Zaniyah McGee, nominated by Kathy LaCome, San Lorenzo USD
- Christopher Luna Ochoa, nominated by Erika Brown, Dublin USD

Congratulations to all these students. Thank you to the administrators who shared the stories of these amazing students. We will be honoring them at our R6 Student Awards Reception in April.



ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards 2025



Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration

Join us in celebrating all of our AOY nominees and winners
(list can be found on our [website](#))

Thursday, April 17, 2025
San Ramon Marriott

5:00 - 6:00 pm Cocktail hour (1 complimentary beer, wine, or soda)
Featuring music by students

6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner and Awards presentation

Tickets \$95

Purchase tickets on [Eventbrite](#) until April 3, 2025



Region 6 Awards

Each year, Region 6 honors two ACSA leaders for exemplary leadership to ACSA and the education community.

The Nels Nelson Award is named after Region 6's first Executive Director who served for many years. The recipient of this award is a person who has demonstrated ethical and moral leadership, continuing commitment and dedication to student achievement and a visionary who lays foundations of educational excellence that will continue beyond their tenure. This individual has also served ACSA for many years and in many capacities as a leader. This year's recipient is Pam VandeKamp.

The Region 6 Frank Wells President's Award is given to a member who has provided exceptional leadership and service to the region. This award honors the late Dr. Frank Wells who exemplified outstanding service and leadership to ACSA. This year's recipient is Annette Heldman.

Congratulations to Pam and Annette who will be honored at our 2025 Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner on April 17.



Nels Nelson Award

Pam VandeKamp

Region 6 Communication Chair 2023-25
Region 6 Retiree Charter Board 2022-25
Region 6 President 2019-20
Region 6 Treasurer 2016-18
Numerous Region and Charter Leadership Positions



Frank Wells President's Award

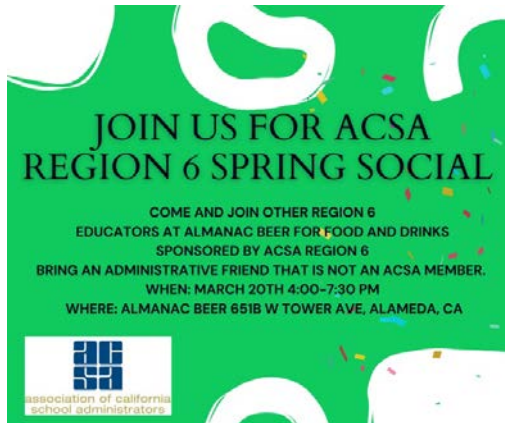
Annette Heldman

Assistant Superintendent of Business,
New Haven USD
Region 6 Treasurer 2022-24
Region 6 Comptroller 2020-22
Region 6 Rep to ACSA Business Council
2017-20, 2023-25



Region 6 Membership Networking Socials

Good for your mental health!



Region 6 Membership Event

The last of 4 networking socials will be held on March 20 at Almanac Beer in Alameda. Don't miss out!

This is a FREE event. Bring a colleague who is not yet an ACSA member.

Thank you to our Vice President Harvey Yurkovich and At-Large Rep Erin Roberts for organizing these membership events all over the region this year.



Trina Plummer and Amy Espinosa chatting with R6 President Matt Chamberlain and VP Harvey Yurkovich



Danielle Wilford and Ann Shin catching up at the social



Harvey Yurkovich greeting Jennifer Clark at the March 6 social in Concord



Women's Leadership Network

On the first day of Women's History Month, Region 6 held its first WLN event for breakfast on Saturday, March 1, at Jack's in Newark. Vice President of Programs, Paulette Smith, led an enthusiastic group in a community builder activity where attendees shared their best leadership hack.

The highlight of the morning was to hear ACSA Past President and Castro Valley USD, Parvin Ahmadi about her life journey as a woman leader. Absolutely inspiring!



Paulette Smith welcoming attendees to this Saturday morning breakfast



Charity Hastings from ACOE catching up with Allison Ching from Castro Valley USD



It was a luxury for some of us to have this time for good conversations



A small group brainstorming leadership hacks from their work



Parvin sharing her moving story beginning when she came to the US in her teens as a non-English speaking exchange student in the midwest



It was a quick morning but uplifting to find time and connecting with other leaders



Region 6 Annual Conference Returns in 2025
June 12, 2025
Double Tree Pleasanton



Your Region 6 leadership is deep in planning for the return of our annual conference. You just cannot miss this event when we will be celebrating the end of an amazing year. Our Region 6 peers have stepped up to share their successful practices in breakout sessions that will focus on these strands:

Thriving as We Shine

- Elevating others
- Celebrating success

Leading with Heart

- Well-being, mental health, resilience, equity
- Servant leadership for all

Leading with Mind

- Organizational capacity
- Strategic thinking and innovation

We are so fortunate to have Dr. Patricia Brent-Sanco, Director of Equity, Access, and Instructional Services for the Lynwood Unified School District as our opening keynoter. She is an outstanding high energy national presenter. She chaired the ACSA Leadership Summit Committee for the last three years.

Look for registration and program details in the upcoming weeks!



Want to Play a Bigger Role in Influencing Legislative Polices?

ACSA Leg Policy Input: Immigration Enforcement

ACSA Legislative Policy Council reviews legislation and considers ACSA's position on ones that impact our work. The LPC receives bills to review one week prior to the periodic meetings. By enrolling, you will receive the bill summary and be invited to provide any feedback. The turn around on these requests is 5-7 days. If you have any questions, please reach out to R6 Rep to ACSA Legislative Policy Committee, Hilary Dito at hdito@cccoe.k12.ca.us

[Sign up using this Google Form](#)



From Your Region Executive Director

Region 6 Continues Effort to Connect with our Members

It's remarkable how fast news can travel these days via a huge variety of channels. Hope you have noticed our increased presence on social media with Dr. Pam VandeKamp leading this effort. You can find Region 6 on Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Threads. We are currently "checking out" Bluesky as well! Don't forget to continuously SHARE or REPOST our messages and stories so we can truly benefit from the value of social media.

Personally, I still like the face-to-face connections best most of the time. There's something about the energy that comes from these interactions that just cannot be replicated on a screen! So, have you joined us for any of the membership socials the past 2 years? We have been holding 4 of them each year throughout our Region to minimize travel time and distance after a work day. We have one more this year in Alameda at Almanac Beer on March 20 from 4:00 to 7:30 pm. Enjoy some food and libation on Region 6 along with the company of other school leaders in Region 6. Make the time to treat yourself and enjoy the fun. You deserve it!

We are in the midst of a Region 6 pilot in using SMS text messaging to send out reminders and alerts, particularly for time sensitive messages. To receive text messages from Region 6, you must opt in and give explicit permission to the mobile number you provide. You will not be able to respond directly to us through the SMS message but a URL to click may be provided if appropriate so you can get more targeted information.

Click on the button near the end of this newsletter to sign up for this additional communication channel provided through Constant Contact, the platform we currently use to deliver our newsletters to you.

Remember, communication is always two-way. Responsibility does not only fall on the provider but just as important for the recipient to receive it!

I can't wait to see many of you on April 17 for the biggest party of the year for Region 6! Ticket sale closes on April 3.

Enjoy the spring. I know it's a very busy time for everyone!

Rose

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



Welcome to New ACSA Members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in November, December, January:

Alameda USD

Kirstin Snyder, Steven Martin

Alameda COE

Abbey Kerins, Lucero Claiborne, Kim Boverio, Corella Romany, Alicia Masri

Antioch USD

Karen Begg

Castro Valley USD

Samuel Brewer, Doris Kwok-Dellenback, Amy Glodde, Janet Sinhbandith, Mistee Hightower-Guzman, Desirae Feria

Hayward USD

Catherine Diaz-Centeno

Liberty Union HSD

Shelly Johnson, Dana Johnston

Newark USD

Jenny Cronan, Trudy Parker

Oakley UESD

Anamarcela Mead, LaNetta Small-Whittle, Courtney Kadlec, Kandis Purnell

Orinda UESD

Sarah Acosta-Landry

San Leandro USD

Maite Barloga

San Lorenzo USD

Linda Fellers, Hesson Hesson, Alex Sedique, Wanda Black, Behrooz Danish, Jamie Harrison, Peter Oshinski, Stephanie Schoen, Kevin Moore, Andrew Waranoff, Franklin Ng, Alexander Navasca, Sharaya Wiley, Neal Block, Christopher Condap, Pete Gidlund, Theresa Murti, Arlene Salcedo, Michelle Schofield, Vong Nguyen, Daniel Chaja, Rosalba Solorio, Ruby Camarena, Diana Maravilla, John Shimko, Maricarmen Palau, Erin Barham, Nicole Saleta, Krista Alexander, Gulsheeb Oberoi, Suzanne Williams, Luis Garcia, Stacy Kaplan, Edwina Gaspar, Douglas Marr, Donald Smith, Andrew Ruiz, Christine Wagner, Michelle Fickling Gherlone, Anthony Tran, Megan Guillen, Tatiana Peugeot, Allison Crawford, Della Hsiao, Ann Wehrle, Darrell Kirby, Paula Wood, Paula Jioia, Christina Carnecer, Kristian Hinz, Paul Rose, Sara Nyquist

San Ramon Valley USD

Kristin Pelham, Sue Ellen Thomas, Rick Schmitt

West Contra Costa USD

Karen, Zapata, James Allardice, Nancy Flocchini

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

David Thornley, Evan Powell, Heidi Andrews, Jeremy Vilkins, Alysse Castro (2)



Region 6 Partners Corner

We are grateful to our Partners for their continuing support of our region's programs in 2024-25. 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](#).

 RIGHT AT SCHOOL	 ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION Alyse Castro, Superintendent	 SPG THERAPY & EDUCATION
 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Office of Education learn • lead • achieve Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools	 eLevo ENGAGE. INSPIRE. THRIVE.	 Keenan Associates
 LEGO education™	 aa/r/r Atkinson, Andelson Loya, Ruud & Romo	 Curriculum Associates™
 TEACHER'S PENSION	 McGraw Hill Achieve3000™	 Capturing Kids' Hearts Powered by Pearson Education
 6erickets Expanded Learning Management Solutions	 EQUITABLE ADVISORS	 Lakeshore®
 California Casualty Auto and Home Insurance	 TRi TRiGroup, Inc.	 REACH UNIVERSITY
 SCHOLASTIC	 LS	 LozanoSmith ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 FranklinCovey Education	 SHOOB photography	 Lifetouch®



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[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)
[Region 6 Website](#)

Region 6 Staff

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director

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: Vacant

[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

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](#)

ACSA Region 6 | 77 Santa Barbara Road | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 US

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