

Check out all the recent Region 6 activities. Get engaged with fellow ACSA leaders! Where else can you get the support, understanding, encouragement, etc. from like-minded educators!



Advance Newsletter

November, 2025

President's Message



Empowered to Lead, Inspired by Heart, United for Impact

Dear Region 6 Leaders,

Last week's ACSA Leadership Summit was nothing short of outstanding. It was a powerful gathering that reignited our shared purpose as educators and leaders. The Summit reminded us of why we lead - to inspire hope, to believe in one another, and to empower every student to reach their full potential. The theme *Lead Loudly: Sharing Stories, Building Bridges* resonated deeply throughout the conference, reminding us that leadership is not a title, it is a commitment.

Hope was a thread woven throughout every keynote and session. Dr. Calvin Mackie's keynote captured this perfectly, emphasizing the power of the simple phrase, *"I believe in you."* Whether we communicate that to our students, our staff or each other. These words transform lives. We were challenged to engage deeply in the work that changes trajectories. As Dr. Mackie reminded us, *machines may know the how, but our students must know the why*, and it is our responsibility to ensure every child is exposed to opportunities that spark curiosity, creativity, and innovation.

Throughout the Summit, sessions expanded our knowledge and skills in areas such as artificial intelligence, social-emotional wellness, equity and inclusion, and cultivating joy. We were reminded to stay grounded in human connection:

- *Get curious, not furious*
- *Your network is your net worth — we are each other's greatest asset*
- *Ensure all students are seen, supported, and inspired*
- *Each of us has the power to shape the public narrative*
- *Maintain integrity even in opposition*
- *Stand as voices of equity and courage*

Our mindset and our actions determine the destiny of our schools and our students. As we move forward in Region 6 and through the school year, let us carry these lessons with us. Together, let's continue to *build bridges*, *share stories of hope*, and give our all for the children we serve.

In partnership and gratitude,
[Lorianne R. Ventura, Ed.D.](#)
 President, ACSA Region 6

Region 6 members out in force at ACSA Leadership Summit 2025 in San Francisco



Dr. Daryl Camp, ACSA President and Superintendent of San Lorenzo USD presided over the 2.5 day conference

The ACSA Leadership Summit is an annual gathering of educators at all levels of administration that offers an opportunity to learn new strategies for serving students, network with peers and celebrate our profession. This year's theme "Lead Loudly: Sharing Stories, Building Bridges" was selected to inspire school leaders to step up, speak out, share their stories and build connections with others - even in challenging times.

Nearly 50 Region 6 members attended this conference and engaged in invaluable networking and professional learning on critical leadership and educational issues.

Join us in Chula Vista on November 4-7 for ACSA's 2026 Leadership Summit.



Honored to have our ACSA leaders attend our R6 reception

Region 6 Leaders gathered for some quality time with each other

Sherry Strausbaugh receiving the Middle Grades Principal of the Year Award from ACSA President Daryl Camp at Awards Gala



ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards 2026

2026 ACSA AWARDS PROGRAM

Now open for nominations

One of ACSA's core priorities is to recognize and celebrate excellence in educational leadership. Through our annual awards program, we honor outstanding students, administrators, and community organizations for their achievements and unwavering commitment to public education.

Start your nomination today - www.acsa.org/awards

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:

2026 Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner at the San Ramon Marriott on April 23, 2026!



ACSA Advocacy



INTERESTED IN KNOWING MORE ABOUT WHAT ACSA IS DOING IN ADVOCACY? DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

One of the major reasons educators join ACSA is its priority for advocacy on behalf of the 6 million public school students in California. Our organization has the "second to none" advocacy team in Sacramento. Their influence with policy makers helps to shape those policies that truly support our students, schools, and communities. So proud to have them there for us.

The ACSA website has up to date information and abundance of resources to help members keep up with the political landscape and legislative related activities in our state as well as at the federal level. Check [ACSA.org](https://www.acsa.org) regularly to stay informed.

Each year, the ACSA Board of Directors adopts the [One Voice for Students Legislative Platform](#) that prioritizes the work of the governmental Relations Team and the grassroots advocacy efforts.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAYS 2026 - April 20-21, 2026 | Sacramento, CA

Each year, approximately 250 education leaders throughout the state bring their regional teams to Sacramento to advocate for California's 5.8 million students. ACSA staff, along with experts in the field, will provide members with briefings and guidance on current issues in education as well as offer the tools to directly lobby the legislature. Join us to hear our legislative priorities and advocate for leadership, equity, support and investment on behalf of California's students and educators.

If you are interested in participating in the 2026 ACSA Leg Action Days, please complete this [Google Form](#).

If you have any questions or would like to become more involved in advocacy and we need you, you can reach out to our Region 6 VP Legislative Action, [Efa Huckaby](#) or Region 6 Rep to ACSA Legislative Policy Committee, [Hilary Dito](#).



Region 6 Fall Events

making connections, building relationships, learning from each other

It's been a busy fall in Region 6! We are thrilled to have so many of our members participate in the various events. These are opportunities for us to connect with and learn from each other.

The school year started with the launch of Region 6's new AAPI Administrators Network on September 2 for a dim sum dinner. We were honored to have Dr. Tracie Noriega, ACSA Senior Director, as our keynote speaker. This was the first of 5 hybrid gatherings for the year. You (including allies) can still join this R6 network at [Google Form](#). Contact [Rose Lock](#) or [Hong Nguyen](#) if you have any questions.

Region 6 held two membership socials in September to welcome the new school year. Thank you to R6 VP Membership Erin Roberts for organizing them in Newark and Antioch. Look for 2 more in the spring in other parts of our region. What a great way to connect with other leaders in our region. It's time well spent for yourself!

On Saturday, October 4, over 25 Region 6 leaders came together for this year's first Women Leadership Network breakfast organized by VP Programs Paulette Smith. Attendees were inspired by our featured speaker Dr. Nia Rashidchi who shared her leadership journey and her new appointment as the Superintendent of Castro Valley USD. Look for the next event in the spring.

Region 6 has one of the largest ACSA Retiree Charters in the state with over 250 members! If you recently retired, you need to apply for the retiree membership to continue as an ACSA member. Stay connected with your school leadership community. At our first luncheon meeting we welcome James Parrish and Kelly Bowers who have so much to contribute to the conversations of some very dedicated retirees! Active retired member Gail Yothers shared her recent adventure as the captain of a sailboat in Croatia and Slovenia!

There are many ways to become involved in our community of educational leaders. It may be locally in your district or charter, at the region level where you network with other leaders from Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and /or at state ACSA activities where you will meet so many amazing leaders like you. Don't miss out, make the time to grow professionally!

Region 6 AAPI Administrators Network Launch





R6 Women Leadership Network Breakfast



Membership Networking Socials in Newark and Antioch





R6 Retiree Charter Luncheon Meeting



ACSA Conferences



Join us for ACSA's Every Child Counts Symposium on January 12–14, 2026, at the Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina.

□ Keynote Speakers:

- Kaelynn Partlow – Autism advocate and Netflix's Love on the Spectrum star inspiring inclusion worldwide
- The Holderness Family – Viral creators, bestselling authors, and Amazing Race champions helping teams connect, innovate, and thrive
- Jack B. Clarke, Jr. – Civil rights leader and education law expert empowering schools to serve every student

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and renew your purpose.

□ Register today: <https://bit.ly/EveryChildCounts2026>



Pleasanton USD Program Featured



The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) published an outstanding article about the Pleasanton Unified School District's youth apprenticeship program in their November/December 2025 issue of *Techniques*. ACTE is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers, and *Techniques* is their official magazine that provides articles, strategies, and resources for educators in career and technical education (CTE) to 24,000+ readers nationally. Here's the [link for the entire article](#).

Under the leadership of Amos Nugent, Pleasanton USD is looking to expand this program across the Bay Area. They are hosting a Forum on Youth Apprenticeship on December 17. Click [here for flyer](#).

Congratulations for the great work in Pleasanton. For more information, contact [Dr. Amos Nugent III](#), Director of Career Pathways and Adult Learning.



From Region 6 Executive Director

Recruit, Retain and Engage

ACSA is a membership organization with its most valuable asset being the members. Our Region's membership continues to grow each year. Based on the November 14 report, Region 6 has 1371 members! This makes us one of the top 3 regions in the state! Thank you to all of you who recognize the value of this professional organization by paying forward and recruiting new members especially our up and coming administrators. Region 6 is making it a focus to retain our members and help them be more informed of all the opportunities available to them.

It's not just being a member, maximize your membership by engaging with other members and participating in ACSA.

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, Mathys Joseph, was honored along with 20 other ESS honorees. Thank you to his support team led by Rosie Reid from Mt. Diablo USD to get

him to the graduation finish line. We are so proud of Mathys.

You can see the story of each student winner on [ACSA YouTube](#)

Be prepared to be inspired by their incredible stories and even shed a few tears!

Nominations for 2026 Awards have begun. **Nominations are due to Region 6 on January 30, 2026.** For more information and the nomination form, [click link to ACSA website.](#)

Wishing everyone peace and joy for the upcoming holiday season.

Rose Lock

Region 6 Executive Director



Welcome New ACSA Members



Welcome to the following new and reinstated ACSA members in Region 6!

Alameda County Office of Ed
Menaka De Alwis, Shakira Modeste

Byron ESD
Anna Foster

Dublin USD
Marvin Reed

Hayward USD
Briahna Baskett, Ruben Orona, Maria Palmer Ozonas, Lorne Rivera, Marceli Rocha-Rocha, Ameer Tillman

Oakley UESD
Jennifer Dormer, Catherine Foster, Monica Hurney, Daniel McKnight, Liliana Regpala, Angela Swenson

San Lorenzo USD
Yumi Matsui, Megan Miller, Maggie Pan,

West Contra Costa USD
Adrianna Jeanpierre, Melissa Payne

New Haven USD
Jami Majewski, Jessie Welcomer, Kimberly Petitt, Matt Harris, Frank DeLapo



Partners Corner

Thank you to our ACSA Region 6 partners whose donations and sponsorships support various programs benefitting our school leaders.

Welcome to these new Partners:



Learning Genie is an AI-driven curriculum agent that revolutionizes K-12 education by empowering student-teacher collaboration to develop a cross-disciplinary curriculum that enhances AI literacy and promotes student agency. Our platform redefines learning paths by integrating innovative educational tools and professional development, nurturing the development of 21st-century skills across multiple subjects and standards. Aligned with the Portrait of a Graduate framework, Learning Genie prepares learners for the future, fostering a paradigm shift in educational outcomes and student motivation.

More information: <https://www.learning-genie.com>



Since 2009, Effective School Solutions has delivered in-school, evidence-based mental and behavioral health programming for TK–12, helping districts' highest-need students thrive while improving outcomes and school climate. We pair comprehensive clinical services with educator Professional Development and coaching, a tailored continuum of care, and funding-sustainability support through identifying and braiding revenue streams so districts can scale equitable, cost-effective supports in across schools.

Website – <https://effectiveschoolsolutions.com/>



Featuring Our Partner

Built for California Classrooms, Rooted in Research

Classroom Mathematics California for Grades K–Algebra 1 has been officially approved by the California State Board of Education as part of the 2025 Mathematics Instructional Materials Adoption. This approval affirms the program’s alignment with the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics (CA CCSSM), the English Language Development (ELD) Standards, and the vision of the 2023 California Mathematics Framework.

Designed from the ground up for California teachers and students, *Classroom Mathematics California* is a core instruction program that engages students’ thinking and reasoning about math problems. The program follows the Try–Discuss–Connect instructional framework, engaging students in making sense of problems, sharing their reasoning, and connecting their ideas to new mathematical concepts.

Reach out to your local Curriculum Associates field representative to learn more!

		
		
		
		
		
		
		



[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA website](#)

[Region 6 website](#)

Region 6 Staff

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director

[Steve Collins](#), Associate Director

Region 6 Leadership

President: Lorianne Ventura

President-Elect: Christina Filios

Past President: Matt Chamberlain

VP, Staff Development: Hong Nguyen

VP, Programs: Paulette Smith

VP, Legislative Action: Efa Huckaby

VP, Membership: Erin Roberts

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Equity Chair: Hong Nguyen

Communication Chair: Pam VandeKamp

ACSA Board Director: Raul Zamora

At-Large Representatives: Amos Nugent III, Nia

Rashidchi, Deb Brill, Mikey McKelvey

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.

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