

Summer 2021 Inside ACSA Region 7

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Claudia Vicino
Region 7 Webmaster &
Newsletter Editor
webmaster@acsaregion7.
net

Association of California School Administrators

Mark Campbell - 2020-2021 President, ACSA Region 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As educators all too often do, in times of challenge and adversity, we rise to meet the moment in question and seek to be better and do better--and we succeed far more often than not. This was especially accurate over the last 14 months of COVID-induced freneticism and fluctuations in conditions and protocols. As individuals, at the site, district and county level, and as a collective---we persisted and persevered in doing what we could...what was necessary in that given moment, to serve and support our students and our colleagues.

At the charter, region and state level, ACSA did the very same in terms of rising and responding to provide the information, support and connections we needed to move forward in our daily obligations equipped as best we could be. In times when the triage mindset and tunnel vision focus could have lessened the outreach, impact and overall connectivity of ACSA...quite the opposite became the reality. Communication and access increased at the state ACSA level and the ability to tap into resources of information and counsel was strong. This was also true at our local levels where the decided and dedicated work was done by our ACSA members to maintain the connectivity and momentum as we collaboratively navigate the pandemic pathway.

As a Region 7 Team, the strength of our members propelled us forward with positivity and purpose. For me, most notably, the powerful entity that is the ACSA R7 Leadership Team

provided the stellar examples of focus and resiliency. I was so fortunate to be able to tap into this most valued leadership resource throughout the year to guide our work.

All of you have worked so hard this year---likely the most difficult year of your professional lives. The work is important...and taxing. The rewards and impacts are significant, but may feel fleeting. It is my hope that you can reflect and recognize the significance of your work and the powerful impacts of your words and actions on those you serve and support through

your leadership. As individuals, and as a collective ACSA-entity, the challenging work will continue---so the need for self-care is all the more evident. Take time to take care of yourselves, as you continue to take care of others through the humanistic leadership that



you demonstrate on a daily basis.

Take care, be well...and continue to do what is necessary to be better and do better.

REGION 7 MISSION STATEMENT

"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."

Be sure to visit our website (http://regions.acsa.org/7/) and stay up-to-date on Region 7 and Charter events as well as committee and council reports and more!

REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

Mother Lode Charter

by Andria Tiquet, President

As we round out this school year (as crazy as that seems) the Mother Lode Charter has a lot to celebrate. We enjoyed an informative Spring PD with updates from our ACSA Legislative team on April 15th. Our "Employees Making a Difference" celebration was definitely different than usual, with certificates and gifts being delivered to individual sites rather than an in-person celebration. Each site also recognized their recipient in a special way. We enjoyed a much needed End of the Year gathering on June 4th at Renegade Winery in Mokelumne Hill.

As this year comes to an end and we look back on all that was different, it is lovely to see that changes made this year may be beneficial going forward, such as offering events and PDs in a hybrid format (in-person/virtual) so that more ACSA members are able to access them. Though there have certainly been challenges this school year, there has been a lot of positive work accomplished on behalf of students, and that is what it is all about!

Wishing you all a very rejuvenating summer!!

Retired (RAC) Charter

by Cindy Murray, President

Congratulations to all educators on the successful completion of another school year and the survival of eighteen months of COVID. I would also like to extend a big welcome and congratulations to all of those administrators that have joined us in retirement. As a chapter of retired ACSA members, we focus on supporting ACSA, being lifelong learners and enjoying our retirement. Our accomplishments for the year include staying healthy, selecting the "Every Student Succeeding" winner for Stanislaus County, participating on the ACSA Awards committee and enjoying each other's company either through Zoom meetings or luncheons. We have had speakers on Medicare, Scott Siegel providing us information on Ceres and distance learning and Dave Garcia providing us information on COVID at the State level. We are hoping in the fall we will be able to plan and participate in a number of social events. Our meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month beginning in September and ending in June, with the exception of January where a meeting is not held. We would love to extend an invitation to all retired ACSA members to join us. Wishing you all a wonderful, relaxing summer.

Stanislaus Charter

by Tracy Manzoni, President

Last year at this time, many of us may have started looking forward to moving on to the next school year and the fading away of the COVID-related school closures of the 2019-20 school year. That feeling was short-lived as we fell forward into a year-long challenge to meet the needs of our students in the midst of an extended pandemic. Now, one year later, we are experiencing another feeling of relief and renewed hope as our state and local guidance begins to lean back towards normality.

In the midst of all these challenges, the Stanislaus ACSA Charter had a lot of great successes. We engaged more participants in our regular breakfast meetings using an online format with a wide range of excellent speakers. We celebrated our survival theme complete with "Life Saver" kits and coffee mugs. Another great success was our ability to expand our collaboration with neighboring charters by sharing invitations to online professional development events. Thank you to everyone for being so ready to step up and partner and participate together as educational leaders!

We were especially excited to get to host two in-person events near the end of the year with one each at the charter and region levels. The Stanislaus Charter celebrated ACSA retirees at the Fruit Yard Restaurant with a wonderful evening of friends, food, and cheers to the honorees. The celebration included six ACSA members who retired this year as well as those who retired last year when we couldn't hold the event. We also enjoyed being part of the in-person ACSA Region 7 Awards Gala!

As you celebrate the close to a very difficult year, I urge you to take time for your own renewal this summer. I find the best strategy is to find a few things you love to do and people you love to spend time with. Keep it simple and keep it enjoyable!



CHARTER REPORTS cont.

Tuolumne Charter

by Diana Harford, President

The Tuolumne Charter of ACSA is looking forward to having their last event of the year as the first in-person event of the year. The officer installation and end-of year social will be held on Tuesday, June 15 at 11:30 a,m, in East Sonora. We are looking forward to celebrating the end of the year and welcoming our new officers. TCACSA is also proud to have awarded four \$750 scholarships to Tuolumne County high school seniors who plan to pursue a career in education. The "Future Educator" scholarship is awarded to provide encouragement and financial support to those seniors planning to enter the profession and we are happy to support them in this manner.

San Joaquin Charter

by Heather Sherburn, President

San Joaquin Charter concluded the year with a wonderful end of year celebration at The Boathouse restaurant. We were all so grateful to have an opportunity to laugh, learn and celebrate face to face. Our accomplishments this year are something we are proud of. Challenging as the year was, in many ways, we grew stronger as a Charter. We celebrated a full Board for the first time in years and with Bob Lee conducting the swearing in ceremony, we welcomed a completely full Board for the 21-22 school year as well. Our Board rejoiced at the increased involvement in our virtual professional development offerings and appreciated connecting with colleagues through participation in the professional development of other Region 7 charters. We hosted our inaugural book study, awarded scholarships to all seniors recognized in our ESS event, held two additional PD sessions with Capital Advisors to hear legislative updates, and launched our SJ ACSA Newsletter and Facebook page. With the challenges of the year, we came together as colleagues, to learn from and support each other in service of our students. The SJACSA Board is grateful for our ACSA colleagues and wish you a restful summer.

Changes to your work site, title, contact information or personal information? Please login to your Member Profile by visiting www.acsa.org. Your ACSA preferred email address is your user name. Forgot your password? Please click on Forgot Password and instructions will be emailed to your preferred ACSA email address. Please take a moment to verify your contact information. If any corrections are required, you may update your information from your Member Profile or contact ACSA Member Services at memberservices@acsa.org.

Why ACSA?

ACSA is the real deal. A professional organization that centers its work on the needs of the members.

For me, participation in ACSA has provided levels of leadership support, training in all aspects of



school administration, and opportunities to help champion public education locally and beyond.

Jeff Winfield Superintendent Soulsbyville SD

Retired or Retiring Soon?

Through the years ACSA has played a major role in your professional career, advocating for you, your staff and students. It has provided multiple opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and social interaction. These opportunities can continue after retirement. The ACSA Region 7 Retired Charter (RAC) provides the opportunity to keep in touch with what is happening in education, while at the same time focusing on opportunities to continue socializing with former colleagues and learning about what is changing in retirement benefits, the best Medicare programs, travel opportunities, etc. RAC members enjoy luncheon meetings, wine tasting, take in a play, meet for dinner, or any other opportunity that provides retired members to get together socially. There are two types of retirement memberships- Full Regular Retired Membership and Emeritus Membership. Visit https://www.acsa.org/join for retired membership applications. Contact RAC President Cindy Murray at cmurray7981@yahoo.com if you have any questions.



Bob Price Distinguished Service Award

This year ACSA Region 7 was pleased to present the Bob Price Distinguished Service Award to Dr. Amy Slavensky, Superintendent of Amador County Unified SD. Dr. Slavensky served as ACSA Region 3 President in 2016; State ACSA Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability Council from 2014-2017; and was the San Juan USD Charter Vice President from 2012-2015. Dr. Slavensky was also active in Region 12 as Upland USD Charter Vice President and President and Region 15's Walnut Valley USD Charter President. Dr. Slavensky participates in ACSA on a state and regional level regularly by meeting with her peers and attending ACSA webinars, lunches, and information sessions. She participates heavily in the chapter's ESS celebration.

Dr. Slavensky is committed to the success of all students in the Amador County Unified School District. She values high quality education and works with her leadership team to find the best ways to implement instruction, whether academic or social-emotional. She keeps the ACUSD vision at the forefront of everything she does to ensure all district employees do their best to "prepare, support



and inspire each student to achieve career and college success in a rapidly revolving world through highly engaging teaching, rigorous learning and innovative pathways supported by strong partnerships in a safe, caring, and collaborative environment.

The Bob Price Distinguished Service Award is presented to one administrator, classified manager, or confidential employee whose service to education exemplifies strong support for the management team, exceptional leadership in managing school programs, commitment to educational quality and student achievement, and creativity in dealing with issues and problems facing public education. This award was renamed in honor of Dr. Bob Price who passed away on January 7, 2019. Bob enjoyed a long and distinguished career in education and ACSA. He earned numerous awards for his service including Superintendent of the Year, the Bill Ullom Award, and the Ferd Kiesel Memorial Distinguished Service Award, which is the highest award State ACSA can present to an individual. In retirement, Bob dedicated himself to mentoring new administrators with the Stanislaus County Office of Education and leading the ACSA's Superintendents' Academy on weekends.

Bill Ullom Award

This year's Region 7 Bill Ullom Award was awarded to Dr. Scott Siegel, Superintendent from the Ceres Unified School District. Dr. Siegel began his 30-year career with Ceres teaching high school math and science including calculus and physics. He has since served in various administrative capacities becoming Superintendent in 2010. From leading twelfth graders in developing quantitative reasoning and problem-solving skills, to leading a district of more than 14,00 students with an absolute commitment to ensuring each one has the tools to reach his or her full potential, Dr. Siegel exemplifies the best in positive, effective, professional service to students.



Under Dr. Siegel's leadership, Ceres Unified secured vital funding for the construction of new schools to serve a rapidly expanding student population; sustained programs and services through the worst fiscal crisis in memory; and launched a college preparedness initiative that has yielded unprecedented growth in the number of A-G eligible high school graduates. Dr. Siegel's foresight six years ago in setting in motion a plan to provide all CUSD students with Internet enabled devices to support their learning, as well as access to free or low-cost Internet options at home, proved especially valuable when California schools suddenly shifted to distance learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic last year.

Dr. Siegel is a determined advocate for educational equality, whether in his role as a school district administrator, an adjunct college professor, or on the numerous boards and committees on which he serves including Central Region School Insurance Group (CRSIG), statewide School Project for Utility Rate Reduction and the Fiscal Crisis & Management Assistance Team. Dr. Siegel is also a longtime member and officer of the Ceres Rotary Club and a regular supporter of community projects and outreach.

Dr. Siegel has been a member of ACSA since 1998. He has served as a presenter and held leadership roles including the State Superintendency Council and enthusiastically supports ACSA programs and events including the Superintendents' Symposium, Annual Leadership Summit, Region 7 Spring Conference, ESS Program, EMAD Program, CEL dinners, and monthly charter meetings.

Region 7 annually singles out one school leader who exemplifies the best in positive, effective, professional service to children and youth. This person is our administrator of the year. The award is named in honor of Bill Ullom, a past Region Consultant, who passed away on June 22, 1981. Bill served in the South Pacific during World War II and was wounded in action. He graduated from the University of New Mexico and received his doctorate from USC. He was a teacher, principal, superintendent, and Region 7 Consultant who set the standard for consultants. He was a remarkable man whose love, sincerity and kindness touched all who came in contact with him. His leadership was inspirational and enhanced those who worked with him.

TRANSITIONS

- Jennifer Backman, Principal at Virginia Parks Elementary School in the Ceres USD, has been named Assistant Superintendent, Student Services at Stanislaus Union SD. Holly Gaylor, Assistant Principal at Virginia Parks Elementary, was named Principal. Kelene Blevins, Program Specialist at Ceres Unified School District, has been named Assistant Principal at Virginia Parks Elementary School in the Ceres USD.
- Toney Henry, Coordinator of Assessment & Accountability at Patterson Jt. USD, has been named **Director of Compliance** and Accountability at the Sylvan Union SD.
- Laura Granger, Assistant Superintendent, Education Services, at the Sylvan Union SD has been named Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at the Riverbank USD.
- **Dr. Denise Wickham**, Deputy Superintendent Ceres USD, was named Superintendent of the Ceres USD. She is replacing **Dr. Scott Siegel** who retired at the end of the school year.
- Dr. Laura Fong, Director of Special Education at the Turlock USD, has been named Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services at the Sylvan Union SD. Ericka Tschantz was named Director, Special Education for Turlock USD, effective July 1, 2021.
- Tiffany Davenport, Principal at Sipherd Elementary School in the Empire Union SD, has been named Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services/Special Education Services. She is replacing Andrew Kersten who is leaving the district to become Superintendent of McSwain Union Elementary School District. Jennifer Watson will be replacing Ms. Davenport as the new Principal of Sipherd Elementary School.
- Jacalyn A. Davis, Principal of Great Valley School in Manteca Unified School District, will transition to Manteca Unified's Coordinator of Equity and Access.
- Pedro Macias, Administrative Assistant at Patricia Kay Beaver Leadership Magnet in Ceres, has been named Learning Director at Cesar Chavez Junior High in the Ceres Unified School District.
- Sylvan Union SD has announced new administrators for the upcoming school year: Amber Wethern was named Director of Professional Development and Learning; Mark Fabela is the new Director of Technology; Tina Hollander was named the new Principal at Orchard Elementary; and Lisa Salsman is the new Assistant Principal at Orchard and Stockard Coffee Elementary Schools. Marti Reed, Director of Technology, retired at the end of the school year.
- Erin Balaam, Program Specialist, Educational Services & Technology in the Sylvan Union SD, will be moving to the Ceres Unified SD as Program Administrator of Educational Services.
- Linda Alaniz, Principal of the Turlock Adult School is **retiring** at the end of the school year. **Jessie Ceja** will be the new **Principal of Turlock Adult School** beginning July 1, 2021.
- Michael Bunch, Principal of George Kelly Elementary School in the Tracy Unified SD, will take over as Director of Human Resources for Tracy Unified beginning July 1st.
- Eric Petersen, Fox Road Elementary Principal in the Hughson Unified SD, will now be the **new Director of Student Services for the Hughson district. Dr. Jeffrey Persons**, previously Assistant Principal at Sandra Tovar Medeiros Elementary School in the Turlock USD, will be the new **Fox Road Principal**.
- Janet Stemler, Superintendent/Principal at New Hope Elementary retired at the end of the school year.
- Rechelle Pearlman, Principal of the STEAM Academy at River Islands, was named the new Superintendent of Banta Unified SD.
- Nancie Castro, Director of Human Resources and Curriculum at Jefferson SD, is transitioning to the position of Assistant Superintendent in the Pittsburg Unified SD beginning in July. Region 7 will miss her!
- Sharon Carter, Coordinator of Assessment & Accountability in the Ceres Unified School District, is moving into the position of Director of MTSS.
- Roberto Gil is transitioning from Ceres Unified SD to become the new Principal of Lucille Whitehead Intermediate School in the Waterford Unified SD starting July 1st.
- Torie Gibson is the new Superintendent of the Amador County Unified SD. She is replacing Dr. Amy Slavensky who retired at the end of the school year.
- Marilen De La Cruz, Assistant Principal at Lucas Elementary School in Ceres, has been named Assistant Principal at Downey High School in Modesto City Schools beginning July 1st.

Please submit any ACSA Region 7 member job changes, retirements, and obituaries for "Transtions" to Claudia Vicino, Region 7 Communications Specialist, at: clvicino420@gmail.com.

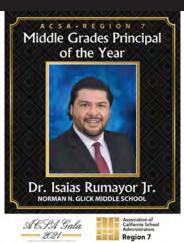


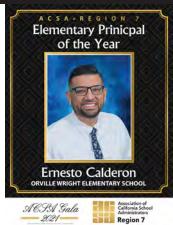


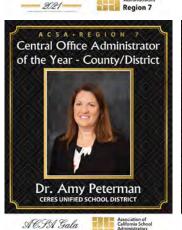
ACSA AWARD WINNERS 2021







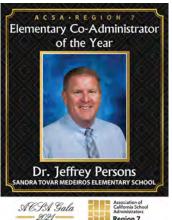


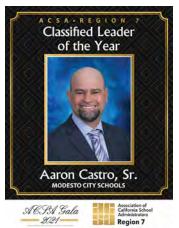


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Student Services

Administrator of the Year





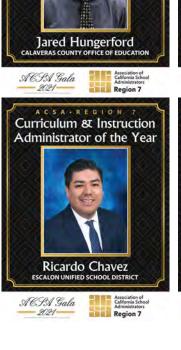




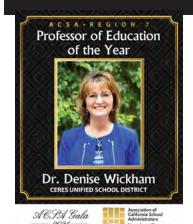






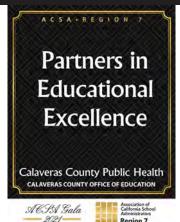


ACSA AWARD WINNERS 2021

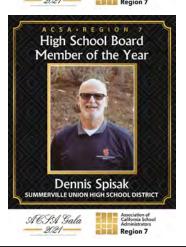


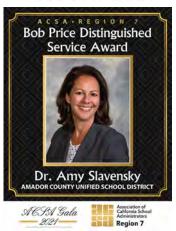














Neomi Chavez Named Region 7 ESS Student

Congratulations to Neomi Chavez, Region 7's ESS student for 2021. Neomi, a senior at Lathrop High School in the Manteca Unified School District, was nominated by her principal, Greg Leland.



Neomi was a typical 8th grader, she earned excellent grades, enjoyed playing sports, and was looking forward to attending high school. During the summer before the start of her freshman year, she was assaulted, causing Neomi's life to begin to spiral downward. Anxiety, depression, risky behavior, and shame began to emotionally drown her. Her grades, attendance, and friendships began to suffer. She went from being a straight A student who was involved in Leadership and athletics to a student that is in the bathroom until her panic attacks subsided.

Neomi discovered that she needed to make some very difficult, life-changing decisions immediately. At her lowest point, before she hit rock-bottom, some very important special adults entered her life, her high school counselors. Together with Neomi, they realized that a plan to turn her life around needed to be developed. In Neomi's words, the plan was "scary," but she knew she had no other choice. She found a safe place with her

high school counselor Lisa Wilson and Valley Community Counselor Ariana Romero. Neomi went to night school to make up her failing grades. She credits her Manteca Adult School teacher and Lathrop High School teachers with engaging her in her studies and helping her achieve in the classroom again.

Neomi graduated carrying a grade point average of 3.75, working part-time, and more importantly, where there was once anxiety and despair, she now has optimism and hope. She dreams of becoming a neurologist one day, helping students overcome adversity and trauma in their lives, such as she was faced with as a 13-year-old. Neomi says, "My trauma is part of me, but it's not me."

Neomi is a wonderful example of a high school student overcoming tremendous odds and adversity at such as early age in her life. Most students might have given up, but not Neomi. She truly epitomizes the true spirit of *Every Student Succeeding*.

Region 7 Welcomes New Members

San Joaquin Charter

Nou Hendricks, Director II, San Joaquin COE Gary Grace, Principal, Linden USD Jovan Jacobs, Executive Director, SELPA/Special Ed Stanislaus Charter

Agustin Arreola, Assistant Principal, Turlock USD







Looking Ahead In Region 7

July

- 11 Leadership Training Planning Team 12 p.m. 2 p.m. Mary Ann Sanders' Home
- Leadership Training The Fruit Yard, Modesto 8 a.m.
- 25-28 State ACSA Board Retreat TBD

August

- 3 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 1 p.m. TBD
- 4 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. Zoom
- 5 Mother Lode Charter Planning Meeting 5 p.m. TBD
- Tuolumne Charter Kick-Off Event 4 p.m. TBD
- 26 Stanislaus Charter Kick-Off 4:30 p.m. Martin Petersen Event Center (Pending COVID Restrictions)

September

- San Joaquin Charter Kick-Off Event TBD
- 7 Retired Administrators Charter (RAC) Luncheon 11:30 a.m. TBD
- 8 Stanislaus Charter Breakfast Meeting 7 a.m. Michael's Pizza 500 Carpenter Rd. Modesto
 Region 7 Conference Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m. Mary Ann Sanders' House 717 Maud Kump Terrace Modesto
 Region 7 Cabinet Meeting 5:30 p.m.- Mary Ann
- Sanders' House 717 Maud Kump Terrace Modesto 10 Mother Lode Charter Kick-Off - 4:30 p.m. - Renegade
- Winery Mokelumne Hill
- 15 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. Zoom
- Mother Lode Charter Cabinet Mtg. 7:30 a.m. TBD
- 17 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. Zoom
- 21 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m. TBD
- 22 Region 7 General Membership Assembly 4:30 p.m. The Golf Club at Cooper Valley Cooperopolis

October

5 Retired Administrators Charter (RAC) Luncheon - 11:30 a.m. - TBD.

Region 7 Officers 2020-2021

PRESIDENT

Mark Campbell

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Ramona Soto-Barajas

VICE PRESIDENT

Jose Aldaco

TREASURER

Rogelio Adame

V.P., PROGRAMS

Tami Garcia

V.P., LEG. ACTION

Joe Aldridge

V.P., MEMBERSHIP

Kathy Griggs

SECRETARY

Barbara Magpusao

PAST PRESIDENT

Jennifer Backman

FACILITIES

COORDINATOR

Claudia Vicino

REGION 7

CONSULTANTMary Ann Sanders

STATE BOARD MEMBER

Dave Garcia

REGION 7
COMMUNICATIONS

SPECIALIST

Claudia Vicino

Charter Presidents 2020-2021

MOTHER LODE

Andria Tiquet

SAN JOAQUIN
Heather Sherburn

STANISLAUS

TUOLUMNE

RETIRED

Tracy Manzoni

Diana Harford

Cindy Murray