



Association of California School Administrators

Ramona Soto-Barajas - 2021-2022 President, ACSA Region 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring Region 7! I can't believe it is already March. Thank you for all that you do for our students and community. Our Charter leaders continue leading their members by providing excellent professional development opportunities and networking with our entire Region. I give a special shout-out to Stanislaus Charter for their excellent virtual attendance to their morning meetings. Not only do they have excellent participation, but their topics have also been extraordinary.

Registration for GMA is available on our website at: <https://regions.acsa.org/7/category/news-resources/>

We look forward to our Spring Conference on May 6-8 at South Lake Tahoe. We have excellent speakers ready to engage our members. We look forward to seeing all of you there. Thank you for being part of ACSA.



Our February GMA at Dave Wong's was well attended and our keynote speaker-Adonai Mack, State ACSA Sr. Director of Equity Services, spoke about Critical Race Theory. We had an opportunity for great discussions and intentional planning on this topic for our Region and charters. Thank you, Adonai, for joining us!

Our April GMA will be held on April 20th at the Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum in Modesto. We will be honoring our ACSA student scholarship winners and our charter ESS students.

ACSA REGION 7 ANNOUNCES REGION OFFICERS FOR 22/23

President: Jose Aldaco
(Stanislaus Charter)

Vice President, Membership: Kathy Griggs (Mother Lode Charter)

President-Elect: Deborah Rowe
(Stanislaus Charter)

Secretary: Mark Campbell
(Mother Lode Charter)

Vice President: Tami Garcia
(Stanislaus Charter)

Past President: Ramona Soto-Barajas
(San Joaquin Charter)

Treasurer: Araceli Zamora
(Stanislaus Charter)

ACSA State Board Representative: Scott Nanik (Mother Lode Charter)

Vice President, Programs: Kelene Blevins
(Stanislaus Charter)

The new officers will be installed at the annual Spring Conference at the Lake Tahoe Resort in South Lake Tahoe on Saturday, May 7th. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Vice President, Leg Action: Jared Hungerford (Mother Lode Charter)

Spring 2022
Inside ACSA
Region 7

Page 2 & 3

Region Charter Reports
Page 3

Why ACSA?
Page 4

Leg Action Day 2022
Meet Your Council Rep

Page 5

Spring Conference
Page 6 & 7

Award Winners
Page 8

New Members
Looking Ahead

Visit/Follow/Like Us
at:

<http://regions.acsa.org/7/>
for additional
information.



Like us on Facebook @
ACSA Region 7

#acsaregion7

Claudia Vicino
Region 7 Webmaster &
Newsletter Editor
webmaster@acsaregion7.net
or clvicino420@gmail.com

REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

Mother Lode Charter

by Karen Vail, President

Mother Lode Charter just held two very inspiring Every Student Succeeding events. The Amador side of the charter held a drive-thru donut and certificate Grab and Go morning. Amador administrators are creating videos for families. In Calaveras, thanks to a catered breakfast by the Murphys Hotel, we held an in-person event. It was amazing to hear about everything the students had overcome to shine. It was incredible to hear what families and school staff did to support their students to help them be their best. It truly does take a village. We are starting to plan Employees Making a Difference which will be a charter-wide event on April 7 to honor our classified staff who have gone above and beyond their normal jobs to support students and the staff they work with. Nominations are due soon, so be sure to work with your team to get those in.

We are also fine-tuning the details for a virtual ASCA Legislative update on April 15. Finally, our last event of the school year will be a year-end social. This is an event we also look forward to and seems it is just around the corner. This event is still in the early planning details.

I want to send out a big thank you to all of our members who continue to hang in there, roll with the punches, and navigate all things new tossed at them in these challenging times.

Retired (RAC) Charter

by Cindy Murray, President

Happy New Year! We have had a busy beginning of 2022. Our first meeting of the New Year was held at Spring Creek Golf and Country Club in Ripon. The speaker for the meeting was Alessandra (Ali) Vega. She did a great job sharing her personal experiences and journey in overcoming hopelessness and depression. Alessandra's story was amazing and extremely powerful. Meeting attendees feel her message would be meaningful and helpful for students and adults alike, and she is very willing to share her story with others.

RAC held their monthly meeting on March 1st at 11:30 at Galletto Ristorante, Modesto. The speaker was Sandy Howell who spoke about health related Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Programs and free services for Medicare beneficiaries. Our April meeting will be April 5th at 11:30. Dave Garcia will be sharing the news from State ACSA and the State Department. We are currently planning on meeting at Chef's of New York in Modesto. More information will be coming out in March.

In January, our RAC members assisted with the Annual Awards selection committee. There were many excellent candidates and the selection was difficult. We are all looking forward to celebrating with the winners at the Spring Conference in May.

Our Every Student Succeeding (ESS) Committee has been busy reviewing nominations. There were twenty-one K-12 nominations from 12 LEAs. All of the nominations were deserving and the selection was difficult. The committee recommendation was sent to the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE). A virtual celebration was presented by SCOE on March 8, 2022.

RAC is looking at scheduling some additional social events this spring, but keeping in mind the current COVID restrictions we are being careful to plan events that will keep everyone safe. Please feel free to join us for any of our luncheon meetings or social events. Everyone is welcome.

Stanislaus Charter

by Kelene Blevins, President

Stanislaus County ACSA charter continued our virtual breakfast meetings with great success. Our attendance has increased to more than 115 members that listen to our amazing speakers. Jen Johnson, LCSW, presented in November on the topic "The Use of Compassion for Ourselves and Others" and helped answer why we are still struggling even with good self-care strategies. Her presentation explained three specific themes: mindfulness, common humanity and kindness.

At the December breakfast, speaker Debbie Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of Without Permission, Inc., presented on the impact of human trafficking in Stanislaus County. She helped our audience to learn about current statistics in the Central Valley and how to prevent and educate local students and their families on this grave and highly growing crime.

The new year was kicked off with celebrating local Employees Making a Difference program, where selected classified professionals were recognized for their ongoing and exemplary performance this year. ACSA Stanislaus Charter knows it takes a team to make an impact in our students' lives and we are grateful for all the classified staff currently serving in our districts and schools.

Our February meeting had a Panel of leaders: Kimberley Newton (MCS), Mike Rich (MCS), Carrie Duckart (Hughson USD), Laura Granger (Riverbank USD), and Amy Peterman (Ceres USD), answering questions on how their districts addressed Learning Recovery and Use of COVID funds.

We will close this school year out with Every Student Succeeding program in March; April's breakfast meeting will be on Equity; and May's breakfast meeting will be a review of the current state and local budget/finances.

CHARTER REPORTS cont.

Tuolumne Charter

by Michael Merrill, President

The Tuolumne Charter of ACSA is very excited to be working on awards presentations for students and staff. Our cabinet meetings have been virtual recently to better serve our membership since we are spread far and wide in our county. I wish to extend a huge thank you to Mary Ann Sanders for always making the effort to attend our meetings. It is great to hear about the goings on from around our awesome region.

We have just finished our selections for our Every Student Succeeding Awards Program. This is always a wonderful opportunity to showcase our students that have worked hard to overcome some type of adversity while also focusing on their education and preparing themselves for the future. Our nominees this year will be awarded at individual School Board Meetings since we are not going to be meeting in a large group at this time. Awardees will be presented a certificate, a gift card and seniors will also receive a scholarship from the Sonora Area Foundation. Many thanks to our Sonora Area Foundation for always supporting our students.

March 24th will mark our Employees Who Make a Difference event. This will be a scaled down but still highly exciting event to recognize classified employees from our districts that have “made a mark” for students and staff in the field of education. Awardees will receive a certificate and a gift from our local TCACSA group thanking them for making a difference.

Coming up on April 7th we have our second PDP event and Kevin Gordon is expected to join us from Capitol Advisors. Kevin always does a great job of informing us about what is happening with the education budget, our legislative process and helping us to all focus on what is coming next. If we are able to, we would like to provide this as a hybrid event so other charters can join us remotely.

Looking forward to our ACSA conference in May so we can recognize the hard work of all of our people. In Tuolumne County, we look forward to recognizing two awardees this year. Congratulations to Wynette Hilton and Troy Ashton.

Thank you to the several charters that have invited me to your zoom meetings. I have heard a lot of good advice, borrowed some great ideas and have enjoyed meeting more new people. All my best to you all as we continue to work for the best of all students and support each other.

San Joaquin Charter

by Travis Manley, President

Our San Joaquin Charter is excited to recognize our Every Student Succeeding nominees on March 14th. There were a lot of great submissions, and we have all been inspired by the stories of perseverance by the students nominated. Our charter is excited about our upcoming Spring PD as well. We will be sending out a call for presenters for our April 6th event. We want to showcase and share the great ideas right here in our county. We know we have a lot of members who are doing great things for schools and students and are looking forward to reading their proposals. We are actively working on our elections and are hoping to increase the representation on our board with the open positions we have. We are excited to see we have had quite a few people join our ACSA charter and the great feedback we have received on our events thus far this year.

Why ACSA?

“ACSA gives new administrators, like myself, opportunities to learn and grow. With the vast professional development opportunities, ACSA makes relevant topics accessible to all leaders working at different capacities with a district. Throughout the last three years, my affiliation with ACSA and my work as the region Awards Chair has allowed me to organize, implement and showcase administrators in a light I never thought possible. ACSA allows me to network with administrators from many districts and has contributed to my growth as an effective school leader.”



Radhika Dinesh
Vice Principal
Bethany Elementary School
Lammersville USD

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!



FISHER INSURANCE AGENCIES

A HORACE MANN COMPANY
AUTO-HOME-LIFE-RETIREMENT-SUPPLEMENTAL

✉ Steve.Fisher@HoraceMann.com

☎ 209-598-7195

✉ Scott.Fisher@HoraceMann.com

☎ 209-470-3910

SECURITIES OFFERED THROUGH HORACE MANN INVESTORS INC.
MEMBER OF FINRA, REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE
INSURANCE LICENSE - STEVE: 0E35602 SCOTT: 0L48698

LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY 2022

by Jared Hungerford, VP Legislative Action

Legislative Action Day has two primary goals: to inform ACSA members about current and proposed legislation and legislative priorities, and to directly communicate our education priorities with our local legislative representatives. This year's Legislative Action Day will take place on April 4th, and continue throughout the week as needed for scheduling advocacy meetings with legislators and their staff. Like last year, this year's event will be held in the virtual environment.

On the morning of April 4th, any interested ACSA members will have the opportunity to virtually attend information sessions led by ACSA legislative analysts and other capitol education advocates. Information regarding how to access these sessions will be released in the coming month. Direct advocacy small-group meetings will be scheduled with each regional legislator. Please contact your charter Vice President for Legislative Action if you are interested in joining one of these advocacy meetings. A briefing on ACSA legislative priorities and potential talking points is provided.

Those interested in learning more about legislative advocacy and wanting to stay informed about all that is happening in Sacramento that impacts our work, is encouraged to watch ACSA's weekly Legislative Lunch Break program on Wednesdays from 1pm-2pm on YouTube or Facebook Live. A recording of each episode is available on YouTube.

Thank you for your support in ensuring our voices are heard and that students receive what they need to succeed now and in the future.

MEET YOUR COUNCIL REP

Who: Antony Little

Council: Region 7 Adult Education Council Representative

Job: Director III: Alternative Education, Modesto City Schools

(Antony and his team manage the Modesto Virtual Academy (long term independent study) 1800+ students, TK-12; G230-dynamic credit recovery program; TOPs- school within a school; and the Modesto Adult School.)

Antony started teaching in 2006 as a secondary math teacher. His administrative positions have included: High School Learning Director, Junior High Assistant Principal; Elementary Principal; and Coordinator of Educational Options.

After graduating from Modesto High School in 2000, Antony attended Florida A&M University - a historically Black College and University in Tallahassee, FL. For the first time he was surrounded by students who looked like him. And he was taught by black professors and leaders in the industry who challenged and supported him. He realized then that he wanted to inspire and mentor students even if he would possibly be the only black teacher, administrator, or professional they would ever interact with. Antony wanted to give what he once was blessed to receive.

Antony loves spending time with Kiersten, his beautiful wife of 14 years; amazing daughters Kamryn (13) and Kwynn (9), and talented son Turner (7). Quality time is lounging at home, biking around Riverbank, video games, sports, movie and game nights.

In his spare time, Antony is a Pac-12 football official. The fall is football season. Flights, fans, stadiums, coaches, players, flags, grades, scrutiny. Pressure for fun. He is in a rule book year-round; in the gym daily before the sun comes up; conference calls and study sessions. He loves it all! Officiating has allowed him the opportunity to build quality relationships, explore the country, and develop skills that have been beneficial in all other aspects of his life.

Antony has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Florida A&M University; a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and Teaching Credential from the University of Phoenix; and his Administrative Credential from CSU, Stanislaus.

Antony enjoys playing chess. During COVID shutdown he took the opportunity to teach his children to play chess. So many lessons to learn in strategizing and decision making through chess. He also has an odd dislike of centaurs or any characters that are half-human and half-animal. It creeps him out.



Annual Spring Conference Coming Soon

It has been 2 years since our last **Region 7 Spring Conference**, and we are ready to celebrate! The conference committee has been working diligently putting together an outstanding list of speakers for our annual conference, **May 6-8th** at the **Lake Tahoe Resort**. Our awards committee has spent many hours poring over nominations and getting awards lined up for our Friday night **“Awards Gala.”**

Our **keynote speakers** will inspire and motivate as they share their expertise. **Edgar S. Zazueta, Ed.D., ACSA Senior Director, State and Federal Governmental Relations and Kevin Gordon, President / Partner Capitol Advisors** will bring us up to date on all the latest information on education and what is happening in Sacramento.

Principal Kafele is one of the most sought-after school leadership and classroom equity presenters in America. He has delivered over two thousand conference and program keynotes, professional development workshops, parenting seminars and student assemblies over his 34 years of public speaking. An expert in the area of “attitude transformation,” Principal Kafele is the leading authority for providing effective classroom and school leadership strategies toward closing what he coined, the “Attitude Gap.” Principal Kafele will also be doing a breakout session on “School Leadership and Classroom Equity.”

Roni Habib, EQ Schools, is an expert in helping leaders, educators, and parents become happier, more resilient, more connected to their purpose, and more playful. The founder of EQ Schools, he leads workshops and speaks in organizations nationally and abroad. In the first four years of establishing EQ Schools, Roni has taught and inspired thousands of Teachers, Principals, Superintendents, and Parents. Roni Habib will also be doing a breakout session on “Build School Cultures that Put the Well-Being and Emotional Intelligence of Students and Educators First.”

Gerry Brooks is an encouraging speaker who has spoken to educational groups all around the nation. His focus is on encouraging teachers to improve their instruction through personal climate and culture strategies. He desires to help administrators focus on how to lead all staff in a positive and constructive manner.

Other breakout sessions include:

Aligning Systems for Student Success - Laura Granger, Asst. Superintendent, Ed Services, Dr. Richard Tapia Asst. Sup. Ed Services Riverbank, Barbara Brown Director of Students Services Riverbank, Bergen Filgas Mental Health Therapist Riverbank, Riverbank SD

Making Mental Health Moments - Shaun Hurtado, Principal, La Loma Junior High, Modesto City Schools

MTSS: Multi-Tiered System of Self Support - Ken Fitzgerald, Director of Student Support Programs, Patterson Jt. Unified SD

Let's Be Real, Work Life Balance is a Myth! How to Develop Strategies to Deal with Stress, Be More Productive and Love Your Life - Kristi Britton Ed.D., Director of Special Education, Ceres Unified

Hands-On Learning: Maker Kits to the Rescue - Emily Bryan, Mariana Sandoval, Brian Wise; Educational Technology Specialists, Ceres Unified SD

Social Emotional Leadership - Tim Torres Mofhitz, Education Consultant, FranklinCovey Education

Be sure to go to: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acsa-region-7-spring-conference-2022-registration-168054598829> to register and find out more information. Full conference registration includes the Friday night dinner and lunch on Friday and Saturday. You can also purchase tickets for the Friday dinner only as well as extra tickets for Friday night dinner and the lunch meals. We will be celebrating ACSA's 50th birthday in addition to our award winners.

Don't forget to bring your Kentucky Derby hat for the Kentucky Derby Soiree on Saturday afternoon. A prize will be given for the best hat and for the lucky person who wins the Kentucky Derby square. Refreshments will be served as we watch the race. Raffle prizes will be given out each day at the Vendor Exhibit area by the registration desk. The conference is a great way to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and to network with colleagues throughout the region.

Room reservations are available at the Lake Tahoe Resort at the conference rate of \$144 for king standard and \$154 for two queen beds. In order to receive the special conference rate you need to make your reservations by April 5th. Remember to use the **Group Code ACSA22** when making your reservation. You can call the hotel direct at **530-544-5400** or visit online at www.tahoeresorthotel.com. **This is a conference you will not want to miss!**

COME JOIN US IN BEAUTIFUL SOUTH LAKE TAHOE!



ACSA REGION 7
ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR
2022

Superintendent of the Year

Dr. Terry Chevalier-Metzger, Superintendent – Denair USD

Superintendent/Principal of the Year

Wynette Hilton, Superintendent/Principal – Big Oak Flat Groveland USD

Secondary Principal of the Year

Michael Shroyer, Principal – Grace Davis HS – Modesto City Schools

Middle Grades Principal of the Year

Heather Sharp, Principal – Sebastian Questa Elementary School (K-8) - Lammersville USD

Elementary Principal of the Year

Steve Merchant, Principal – Samuel Vaughn Elementary School – Ceres USD

Central Office Administrator of the Year – County/District

Dr. Heather Contreras, Assistant Superintendent, School Leadership – Modesto City Schools

Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year

Rogelio Adame, Associate Principal – Central Valley HS – Ceres USD

Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year

Jason Strickland, Vice Principal – Sebastian Questa Elementary School - Lammersville USD

Classified Leader of the Year

Angela Zeoli, Director I, Purchasing – Modesto City Schools

Confidential Employee of the Year

Velma Silva, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent – Sylvan Union SD

Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year

Diolinda Peterson, Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources – Sylvan Union SD

Special Education Administrator of the Year

Dr. Christi Allan, Senior Director, SELPA, Secondary Special Education
Modesto City Schools

Student Services Administrator of the Year

Tracy Manzoni, Executive Director of Student Services – Patterson Jt. USD

Curriculum & Instruction Administrator of the Year

Heather Sherburn, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology
Lammersville USD

Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year

Felipe Meraz, Principal, Roselawn Continuation HS – Turlock USD

Technology Administrator of the Year

Troy Ashton, Division Director II, Infrastructure – Tuolumne County
Superintendent of Schools

Retired Administrator of the Year (Volunteer Service to ACSA)

Cindy Murray, Retired Administrator

Elementary Board Member of the Year

Loretta Stein, Board President, Empire Union SD

Bob Price Distinguished Service Award

Mark Campbell, Superintendent – Calaveras USD

Bill Ullom Award

Dr. Phillip Alfano, Superintendent - Patterson Jt. USD

Congratulations to our award winners! Please join us on Friday evening, May 6th, at our annual Region 7 Spring Conference at the Lake Tahoe Resort as we celebrate these amazing administrators. If you are attending the full conference the Awards Gala dinner is included in your registration fee. If you are attending the dinner only, tickets can be purchased online with Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acsa-region-7-spring-conference-2022-registration-168054598829>.

We hope you can join us in South Lake Tahoe!



Region 7 Welcomes New Members

Mother Lode Charter

Debbie Strand, Communications Coordinator,
Calaveras USD

San Joaquin Charter

Gustavo Arzac, Teaching Principal, Escalon USD
Quincee Garcia, Teacher, Point Quest Education
Roya Mahiddin, Assistant Principal, Tracy USD
Susan Petersen, Dir. of Elementary Education, Lodi USD
Eric A. Simoni, Principal, Escalon USD

RAC

Dr. Phillip Alfano, Superintendent, Patterson Jt. USD
Emeritus Lifetime, Retired

Student Member

Jenna M. Campigli

A special thank you to ACSA recruiters Ricardo
Chavez and Robert Pecot!



SHOOB
photography

4640 Spyres Way Suite 1 | Modesto, CA 95356
209.567.0748 | info@shoobphoto.com

Shoob Photography provides schools with services and materials to help students achieve their potential.

shoobphoto.com

Looking Ahead In Region 7

April

- 3-4 State ACSA Legislative Action Day
- 5 Retired Administrators (RAC) Charter Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m. - Chefs of New York, Modesto
- 6 San Joaquin Charter PDP - TBD
- 7 Tuolumne Charter Spring PDP 7 a.m.
Mother Lode Employees Making a Difference 4:30 p.m.
- 11-13 CEL Institute - North Hollywood, CA.
- 13 Stanislaus Charter Breakfast Meeting 7 a.m. - TBD
San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. - TBD
- 15 Mother Lode Charter Spring PDP - TBD
- 20 General Membership Assembly - 4:30 p.m.
The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum

May

- 2 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m. - TDB
- 3 Retired Administrators (RAC) Charter Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m. - TBD
- 4-6 Lead With Pride Summit - Oceanside, CA
- 6-8 Region 7 Annual Spring Conference - Lake Tahoe Resort, South Lake Tahoe
- 11 Stanislaus Charter Breakfast Meeting - 7 a.m. - TBD
- 12 State ACSA Leadership Assembly - TBD
- 18 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:15 a.m. - TBD
- 26 Mother Lode Charter Board Meeting 7:30 a.m. - Zoom
- 28-29 Equity Institute - Pasadena, CA

June

- 7 Retired Administrators (RAC) Charter Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m. TBD
- 9 Mother Lode End-of-Year Event 4:30 p.m.
Renegade Winery
- 13 Leadership Training 8:30 a.m. - Fruit Yard, Modesto
- 14 Tuolumne End-of-Year Event/Officer Installation 11:30 a.m. (TBD)
- 19-25 Principals' Summer Institute - UCLA
- 20-24 New & Aspiring Principals' Institute - UCLA

Region 7 Officers 2021-2022

PRESIDENT
Ramona Soto-Barajas
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Jose Aldaco
VICE PRESIDENT
Deborah Rowe
TREASURER
Deborah Rowe

V.P., PROGRAMS
Tami Garcia
V.P., LEG. ACTION
Jared Hungerford
V.P., MEMBERSHIP
Kathy Griggs
SECRETARY
Barbara Magpusao

PAST PRESIDENT
Mark Campbell
FACILITIES COORDINATOR
Claudia Vicino
REGION 7 CONSULTANT
Mary Ann Sanders

STATE BOARD MEMBER
Dave Garcia
REGION 7 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST
Claudia Vicino

Charter Presidents 2021-2022

MOTHER LODGE

Karen Vail

SAN JOAQUIN

Travis Manley

STANISLAUS

Kelene Blevins

TUOLUMNE

Michael Merrill

RETIRED

Cindy Murray