



Association of California School Administrators

Jose Aldaco - 2022-2023 President, ACSA Region 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

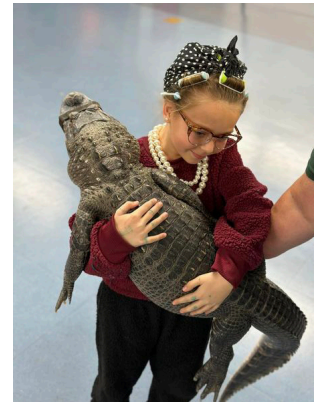


I walked into our Intermediate School's multi-purpose room the other day during the Expanded Learning Program to the sight of a hundred-year-old woman holding a five-foot alligator. That 'hundred-year-old woman' was a third grader

who was dressed up to celebrate 100 days of school, and the alligator was a part of a presentation by a local wildlife education group called Cruzin Critters Wisdom Thru Wildlife. It felt like I was watching two worlds collide – remembering the many 100-day celebrations I have seen over my years in education, blended with a brand-new experience that has been made possible through our Expanded Learning Program.

It got me thinking about what a unique time we live in. Even as we leave the COVID years behind, there are lingering affects we are struggling to break away from; attendance, mental health, and school connection continue to haunt our steps, and the years away from the classroom did little to address

the rising trends of disconnection and diminished empathy in young people. Our school celebrations, special events, and community partners are more vital than ever as we seek to reignite student engagement. Whether it's celebrating 100 days in the classroom, doing activities for The Great Kindness Challenge, bringing in guest speakers, hosting families for a Reading Expo, or partnering with community organizations to bring unique experiences to campus, I've watched colleagues and administrators across our region be more creative and innovative than ever before in raising engagement. It makes me grateful to be a part of a network like ACSA, where we can learn from each other and collaborate on how to tackle the problems we all face. It's my hope that you all continue to lean into everything ACSA has to offer, and leave every meeting feeling Ignited, Energized, United, and Equipped to Serve.



NEW REGION 7 OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to our new region officers:

Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr. - Vice President

Jennifer Backman, Vice President, Membership

Jared Hungerford, Vice President, Leg Action

Thank you to our members who took the time to send in your ballot. The 2023-2024 officers will be installed at our annual spring conference in So. Lake Tahoe on May 6th.

"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!

Winter/Spring 2023

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REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

Mother Lode Charter

by Karen Vail, Mother Lode Charter President

The Charter has been quite busy. We enjoyed spending some time together at our Winter Social in December. The Mother Lode Charter consists of members from Amador and Calaveras County. Each of the counties hold separate celebrations for Every Student Succeeding. Amador's drive through celebration, which was developed as a result of COVID, has now become so popular families wouldn't have it any other way. Calaveras celebrates their students at a breakfast event. Celebrating these students is always charter members' highlight of the year. Families and school staff come together to recognize outstanding students. What stands out each and every time at these events is how powerful the teams are who help these students rise above all odds to be successful.

We go right into organizing our Employees Making a Difference celebration planning. We will be asking schools to nominate classified staff who have gone above and beyond to help students and school sites be successful. We look forward to celebrating them in April.

Tuolumne Charter

by Michael Merrill, Tuolumne Charter President

The Tuolumne Charter of ACSA is very excited to be working on awards presentations for students and staff. Our cabinet meetings have been mostly in person this year, but we have had some virtual meetings recently to better serve our membership since we are spread far and wide in our county. I want to thank Mary Ann Sanders for always making the effort to attend our meetings. It is great to hear about the goings on from around our region.

We have selected our students for our Every Student Succeeding awards program on February 16th. 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 were recognized at a ceremony hosted at our Sonora Elks Lodge. Awardees were presented a certificate, a gift card and seniors received a scholarship from the Sonora Area Foundation. Many thanks to our Sonora Area Foundation for always supporting our students.

March 23rd will mark our Employees Who Make a Difference event. This is expected to be a 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. It is a great honor to celebrate our outstanding classified staff and have their families and colleagues along for the ride.

Coming up on April 6th we have our second PDP event and we are looking to have an Equity presentation. Plans are still in process, but we thank our President-elect Ben Howell for arranging this professional development opportunity.

Tuolumne Charter Contd.

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 our educational colleagues. Thank you to all for your continued commitment to our students and our colleagues.

Retired (RAC) Charter

by Barbara McCleskey, RAC Charter President

Greeting from the Retired Administrators Charter. Our Charter has been busy since the last newsletter. At our November 1st meeting Gabe Soumakian, Adventure Du Jour Travel, gave a presentation on "Adventures during your retirement". He is from southern California and arranges trips for retired educators. If you are interested in knowing more please go to "<https://www.facebook.com/groups/retirededucators>" for more information.

At our December 6 meeting Lidia Parman from Golden Placement Services-Senior Housing and Transition Specialist, presented on "Elderly Care." She assisted me when we needed to find a place for my mother when she became very ill. If you need further information you may contact her at 209-222-7138.

On February 8th we held a social event at Yankee Hill Winery and Cooking class. The theme was "Tuscany Foods". Third time I have been there. A lot of fun!

At our February 7th meeting revised by-laws were adopted for our Retired Administrators Charter. If any other Retired Administrators Charter would like a copy of our by-laws, please let me know and I can email them to you.

Following is our schedule for our upcoming meetings. You do not have to be a RAC member to attend so if there is a subject that is of interest to you—just let me (Barbara McCleskey) know by texting me at 209-483-1808. Each individual pays for their own meal. We try to make it as simple as can be because you know that "us retired people" are busy. We have things to do and places to go!!!! Business is conducted after the speaker's presentation. All meetings start at 11:30 a.m. **March 7, 2023:** Burley's California Bistro, Modesto CA – Tim Zearley, Associate Superintendent of Business Services, Modesto City School – "School Safety in the aftermath of the Uvalde Shooting."

April 4, 2023: Burley's California Bistro, Modesto CA - Julie Betschart, Deputy Superintendent, Stanislaus County Office of Education – "California Budget for Education."

May 2, 2023: Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Oakdale CA – Jessica Rooper, Healthy Relationships Program Manager and Lupita Hernandez, HARRT Education – "Human Trafficking, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault."

June 6, 2023: Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Oakdale CA – Craig Memmo – author of Children's Book and sixth grade teacher at Tuolumne Elementary speaking on his book "Difference The Rainbow Zebra – An African Tale of Diversity."

We always welcome new members! Wishing you all a pleasant upcoming Spring!

San Joaquin Charter

by Pam Knapp
San Joaquin Charter Director

Congratulations to the inspirational San Joaquin County students who received the Every Student Succeeding award! The annual awards are presented by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) to celebrate students who succeeded despite facing difficult challenges. Nominated by supporters in their schools, the 17 students were recognized at a breakfast ceremony at the San Joaquin County Office of Education on Wednesday, February 8th, where administrators, teachers, and families came together to honor the students and their achievements.

The awardees were:

Lilliann Ruiz and Samantha Hagan (Escalon USD)

Cayla Alvarez (Lammersville USD)

Avya Arrien and Lilliana Otey (Lincoln USD)

Brooklyn Armanino (Linden USD)

Amber Way, Orlin Josue Perez Rodriguez, and Xavier Gabriel Avila (Manteca USD)

Yaratzarani Aguilar Ontiveros (New Jerusalem ESD)

Joselin Figueroa and Ocean Cook (Ripon USD)

Karry Marie Colon-Siles and Alexander Zanini (SJCOE Venture Academy Family of Schools)

Adrian Belloso, Jorge Bolin, and Milagros Miranda (Tracy USD)



Each of the 17 stories read were as unique as the students, themselves. They faced homelessness, family tragedy, learning differences, or personal illness and were still able to push themselves forward and, often, support others. This program was co-sponsored by the SJCOE Educational Services Division, College and Career Readiness Department. Over 100 people attended this year's annual event.

Stanislaus Charter

by Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.
Stanislaus Charter President

Greetings from the Stanislaus Charter. Our charter has spent the past couple of months submitting nominations for ACSA Region 7's annual awards program. In January we honored classified staff during our Employees Making a Difference celebration. Our Charter will be honoring students in March during our Every Student Succeeding recognition breakfast. We appreciate and thank all ACSA members who submitted a nomination. Stanislaus Charter is honored to have the Stanislaus County Office of Education as a partner as we celebrate our county's classified staff and students.

Why ACSA?

ACSA provides California School Administrators the opportunity to network, learn, grow, and collaborate with colleagues across the state in an effort to solve some of our greatest challenges in public education. It is ACSA's mission to support equitable and positive educational outcomes for California's Education System, that makes ACSA special. Whether it is celebrating the success of our students, recognizing the accomplishments of public school employees or navigating Sacramento's legislative landscape, ACSA is committed to improving the educational outcomes for all students enrolled in California's public schools. Finally, ACSA provides California School Administrators with a sense of community that is evident in the gatherings, conferences, and symposiums it holds throughout the year. After 23 years working in education, it is ACSA's sense of community and collaboration that is an essential part of my support system as an education professional.



Bill Redford,
Director III, Continuous Improvement & Leadership Development,
Calaveras County Office of Education

Region 7 Spring Conference Is Coming

by Kelene Blevins
ACSA Region 7 Vice President, Programs

We can't wait to see you at our ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference in So. Lake Tahoe, CA, on Friday, May 5th to Sunday May 6th, 2023. Registration is now open, visit our website at: <https://regions.acsa.org/7/>. Our Spring Conference is full of amazing keynote speakers and breakout sessions.

The Spring Conference keynotes will include:

- A panel of legislative ACSA members moderated by Mark Campbell (Superintendent of Calaveras Unified School District) addressing Current Events in California Education.
- Hector Palencia MA, LCSW, PPSC and his focus will be on "Trauma, Anxiety, Defiance, and Attendance are a daily occurrence in schools and what we can do as leaders."
- Katie Edwards and Jennifer McCleary, coauthors of "Bridge The Gap: Breakthrough Communication Tools to Transform Work Relationships from Challenging to Collaborative," will equip the leaders with essential skills, and conversation starters to help them communicate and collaborate better with anyone, anywhere, anytime.
- Kristi Marsella with more than +25 years as a senior level Human Resource (HR) executive will speak on how to retain employees and moving from the boss and into a leader, her topic will address current trends on how to retain & maintain employees.

In between keynote speakers you will be able to attend breakout sessions provided by local Region 7 Leaders, addressing a variety of topics from;

- one district's expanding learning opportunities (ELO-P),
- find relevant professional learning for classified support staff
- Rocky Road to success with special education inclusion and Co-teaching
- School Culture - Ignite Staff Engagement and Enthusiasm
- Neuroscience backed wellness for administrators
- Responding to Data, using ICA results to adjust instruction
- Responding to fentanyl use and deaths: Implementing a Naloxone program
- Round 2 of Standards based grading panel (enjoyed this last year? come and hear more)
- Hot Topics in Special Education/Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Benefits of Adult Ed/Expanding Educational Options

Don't forget to come to the conference to celebrate district award winners on Friday, May 5, 2023. We are excited to announce our award winners and celebrate their many accomplishments. Finally, Horace Mann Educators Corporation will be hosting our annual Kentucky Derby fundraiser. Purchase squares for the first place and last place horse of Kentucky Derby throughout the conference. Come dressed in your finest Derby hat/attire to enjoy hors d'oeuvres, socialize with peers and watch the Kentucky Derby.

Meet Your Superintendency Council Representative

Who: Mark Campbell
Job: Superintendent, Calaveras Unified SD

Mark Campbell is Superintendent of the Calaveras Unified School District. Every day his main responsibilities are to work with staff to provide support and resources, to solve problems and to address issues so the district can create opportunities for students to learn and grow. He is currently in his 32nd year as an educator.

Mark chose this profession after recalling the positive impact so many of his teachers had on him and he valued the opportunity to do the same for/with students.

Mark's hobbies are reading, attending live music events, and spending time hanging out with his family. When asked what he did in his spare time he responded "spare time, what's that....?" When he does have some spare time, he enjoys watching sports, reading, exercising...and trying not to think about work.

He earned a B.A. in Liberal Arts and Masters in Educational Leadership from California State University, Stanislaus.

Something of interest:

Mark used to play drums in a "band" with fellow educators and he used to surf 3-4 times a year (not well but did so nonetheless).



Region 7 Award Winners Announced



Superintendent of the Year

Dana Trevethan – Superintendent - Turlock USD

Secondary Principal of the Year

Greg Diaz - Principal, Riverbank High School – Riverbank USD

Middle Grades Principal of the Year

Scott Nicotero – Principal, Avery Middle School – Vallecito Union SD

Elementary Principal of the Year

Dr. Joanna O'Brien - Principal, Woodrow Elementary School - Sylvan Union SD

Central Office Administrator of the Year – County/District

Brad Goudeau – Associate Superintendent, Educational Services – Modesto City Schools\

Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year

Nate Diamantine - Assistant Principal, Patricia Kay Beaver Leadership Magnet – Ceres USD

Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year

Phuc Pham-Goulart - Assistant Principal, Modesto High School – Modesto City Schools

Classified Leader of the Year

Scott Richardson – Director, Maintenance & Operations – Turlock USD

Confidential Employee of the Year

Cheryl Crawford - Administrative Assistant/Office Manager – Turlock USD

Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year

Fernando Ureno – Director of Human Resources – Turlock USD

Adult Education Administrator of the Year

Antony Little – Director of Alternative Education – Modesto City Schools

Career Technical Administrator of the Year

Pam Knapp – Director, College and Career Readiness – San Joaquin COE

Special Education Administrator of the Year

Ericka Tschantz , Director of Special Education – Turlock USD

Business Services Administrator of the Year

Myra “Lizett” Aguilar – Assistant Superintendent of Business Services – Sylvan Union SD

Student Services Administrator of the Year

Danielle Hinkle – Senior Director, Student Support Services – Modesto City Schools\

Curriculum & Instruction Administrator of the Year

Kathy Griggs – Director of Educational Services – Calaveras USD

Continuation/Educational Options Administrator of the Year

Linda Stubbs – Principal, Argus/Endeavor High School – Ceres USD

Retired Administrator of the Year (Volunteer Service to ACSA)

Barbara McCleskey - Retired Administrator

Technology Administrator of the Year

Ashley Grim – Coordinator, Educational Services – Ceres USD

Partners in Educational Excellence

Legacy Health Endowment/EMC Health Foundation

Valuing Diversity

Contessa Pelfrey - Superintendent - Jamestown SD

Elementary Board Member of the Year

Lori Carlson - Board Clerk – Turlock USD

High School Board Member of the Year

Steve Abercrombie - Board President – Tracy USD

Bob Price Distinguished Service Award

Jeff Winfield – Superintendent – Soulsbyville SD

Bill Ullom Award

Christine Facella - Superintendent – Riverbank USD

ACSA Board of Directors Update

by Scott Nanik
Region 7 State Board Representative &
Superintendent, Bret Harte UHSD

I am returning from a gathering of approximately 1,000 Superintendents at the Superintendent's Symposium. This is an update from the Symposium and other news from ACSA.

Burlingame Office Closure

The Burlingame office closure is officially set for 1/31/2023. The five staff members who have chosen to remain with ACSA (three in Member Services Processing and two in Financial Services), will be allowed to work remotely full-time until further notice. All new hires are required to report to the Sacramento office.

Personnel

Equity Director: McPherson & Jacobson, LLC, is currently conducting a personnel search for ACSA for our next Senior Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. They are currently accepting applications until mid-February with plans to interview shortly thereafter.

CFO: We have interviewed a few candidates for our Chief Financial Officer position. We are continuing to accept applications through this month and are considering securing the services of a search firm should we not be satisfied with the candidates.

Academies

Nearly 800 participants are enrolled in our statewide Academy program, with six of the 26 cohorts convening in a hybrid format with up to four in-person Saturdays.

State Budget

Gov. Gavin Newsom released his state budget proposal on January 10, and largely maintained his commitments to the series of major new educational programs created over the last few years, including Universal Transitional Kindergarten, the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, and Universal School Meals.

The governor funds a historically significant COLA at 8.13 percent, increasing LCFF funding by more than \$4 billion and extending the full COLA to other education programs including special education, adult education, and child nutrition.

The governor proposes to change the LCFF by adding a new "equity multiplier" component that would direct funds to the highest poverty school sites, where 85-90 percent of student populations qualify for free lunch. Further, he has indicated an accountability proposal is forthcoming that will require school sites with low-performing student groups to spend dollars in a more targeted manner and to reflect those actions in their LCAP. ACSA appreciates the focus on students most in need but has many questions about the proposals. We will have further details at the end of the month when budget trailer bills are released.

ACSA is very concerned about a proposal to redirect \$1.2 billion of the Arts, Music, and Instructional Materials Discretionary Block grant. Districts have already planned, and in many cases spent these funds. We will be advocating to keep the block grant amounts at the level that was committed.



The Symposium

A topic of many conversations at the Symposium is the recent Superintendent Firings with the recent spike in the abrupt dismissals of superintendents around the state. Many firings have resulted from new governing board members taking office after recent elections. ACSA has been active in connecting with most of the superintendents who have been impacted. Our legal team has been providing support and legal assistance to the district leaders who have been affected. Additionally, we are working with numerous stakeholders to elevate the issue from both a public relations and potentially a policy standpoint. A counterpoint to this was the 100 new superintendents who attended the New Superintendents Workshop. This was an attendance record.

The first general session was Danny Southwick who has been a pro football player for 15 years; he was drafted by the Oakland Raiders and has been a star quarterback in arenas all over the country. His football heroics led him to think deeply about what it means to have “talent” and when it’s really about just sticking to it and putting in the work, think grit.

Dinner that evening was a private event at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Sitting in the tranquility of the aquarium to enjoy dinner and friends helps me release the stress of the job.

The author Nic Stone was our next keynote speaker. She is an American author of young adult fiction and middle-grade fiction, best known for her debut novel *Dear Martin* and her middle-grade debut, *Clean Getaway*. Her novels have been translated into six languages.

Two-panel discussions were provided, *The New Reality of the Superintendency Keeping Students Front and Center In Polarized Times* A Panel Discussion with Superintendents touched upon some complicated topics of the day. And we closed with General Session: *Fiscal & Political Landscape Discussion* with input from Kevin Gordon President & Partner, Capitol Advisors; Parvin Ahmadi ACSA President-Elect, Castro Valley Unified School District; Edgar Zazueta Executive Director, ACSA; and Patti Herrera, Ed.D Vice President, School Services of California.

As always, ACSA events are extremely valuable in our day-to-day work and there is much work to be done.

Ten Top Reasons Why You Should Belong to ACSA

1. Improves the educational success of ALL students.
2. Keeps you up to date on education issues, trends, and findings.
3. Continued development of your leadership skills.
4. Receive legislative updates and legislative advocacy.
5. Receive the official weekly EDCal publication.
6. Participate in professional development throughout the state.
7. Influence the profession by collaborating with other organizations.
8. LEGAL PROTECTION.
9. Provide scholarships!
10. PEER RECOGNITION!!



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California Casualty
Auto and Home Insurance

Region 7 Welcomes New Members

Mother Lode Charter

Christina Bianchi, Program Manager, Calaveras COE

RAC Charter

Blaine Cowick, Retired Administrator
Sylvia Fraser, Emeritus Lifetime Retired

San Joaquin Charter

Michelle Crippen, Principal, River Islands Tech Academy
Justin Gann, Assistant Principal, Stockton USD
Ryan Hesse, Principal, Stockton USD
Theresa M. Johnson, Principal, Manteca USD
Heather Reyburn, Assistant Principal, Tracy USD
Nico Sandoval, Assistant Principal, Tracy USD
Summer R. Simon, Assistant Principal,
River Islands Tech Academy
Megan Smith, STEM Coordinator, San Joaquin COE

Stanislaus Charter

Robert Brogdon, Dir., Tech Operations, Turlock USD
Mandy K. Carranza, Program Specialist, Turlock USD
Veronica Chaidez, Administrator, Special Projects,
Modesto City Schools
Cheryl Crawford, Admin. Assistant, Turlock USD
Stephanie Douglas, Director, HR, Stanislaus Union SD
Barney Gordon, Assistant Superintendent, Business,
Turlock USD
Anthony Luna, Site Tech Manager, Modesto City Schools
Tara Maring, Principal, Salida Union SD
Marileu Miranda, Program Specialist, Turlock USD
Maricela Mota, Dir. II, English Learner Services,
Modesto City Schools
Scott Richardson, Director, Maintenance & Operations,
Turlock USD
Guadalupe Ruiz, IT Manager, Riverbank USD
Sarah Wagner, Program Specialist, Turlock USD

Looking Ahead

March

- 14 Stanislaus Charter ESS Event - 6:30 am - Martin Petersen Event Center - Modesto
- 23 Tuolumne Charter Employees Making a Difference Event - 4:30 pm - Sonora Elks Lodge

April

- 4 RAC Luncheon Meeting 11:30 am - Burly's California Bistro- Modesto
- 5 Region 7 Cabinet Meeting - 4:30 pm - Mary Ann Sander's House
- 6 Tuolumne Charter PDP - 7 am - Garden Cafe - Sonora
- 17-18 State ACSA Legislative Action
- 26 General Membership Assembly - 4:30 pm - Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum

May

- 2 Mother Lode Charter Spring PDP
- 5-7 Region 7 Annual Spring Conference - So. Lake Tahoe - Lake Tahoe Resort

June

- 12 Region 7 Leadership Training 8 am - The Fruit Yard - Modesto

Region 7 Officers 2021-2022

PRESIDENT
Jose Aldaco
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Deborah Rowe
VICE PRESIDENT
Tami Garcia
TREASURER
Araseli Zamora

VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS
Kelene Blevins
VICE PRESIDENT, LEG. ACTION
Jared Hungerford
VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP
Kathy Griggs

SECRETARY
Mark Campbell
PAST PRESIDENT
Ramona Soto-Barajas
REGION 7 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CONSULTANT
Mary Ann Sanders

STATE BOARD MEMBER
Scott Nanik
REGION 7 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST & FACILITIES DIRECTOR
Claudia Vicino

Charter Presidents 2022-2023

MOTHER LODGE
Karen Vail

SAN JOAQUIN
Heather Sharp

STANISLAUS
Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.

TUOLUMNE
Michael Merrill

RETIRED
Barbara McCleskey