

Association of California School Administrators



Deborah Rowe - 2023-2024 President, ACSA Region 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome the cooler temperatures that winter ushers in, warm up by the fireplace with your favorite beverage and a great book or podcast. Take care of personal overwhelm and exhaustion by seeking time alone in meditation and renewal and fill your tank with family and friends over a Thanksgiving meal and remember to encourage your staff to do the same. By addressing overwhelm proactively and compassionately, school leaders promote a sense of balance and resilience and contribute to a healing environment where individuals can thrive academically and personally. Integrating renewal practices into winter break and preparing for a mindful return will make you ready to face the challenges ahead.

Before you return from winter break take time to review new laws that go into effect on January 1, 2023. Work with your leadership teams to

develop new plans and policies, and always seek out the support of job alike colleagues'. One big change beginning in the 2024-2025 school year will be Senate Bill 274 which amends the Education Code to prohibit the suspension of K-12 students from school based on willful defiance. "Administrators should work with staff to review and modify in-school supportive and behavioral interventions to address "willfully defiant" behavior. " (Lozano Smith)



Region 7's 2024 Awards Program

The 2024 ACSA Awards Program is now open for nominations. Please visit www.asca.org/awards or our website <https://regions.asca.org/7/about/awards> to submit a nomination for our ACSA Region 7 awards. Those winners will be recognized at our annual Spring Conference. The Region 7 Awards Committee will be selecting award winners from all the Administrator of the Year categories, the Robert E. Kelly Award, Valuing Diversity Award, and the Partners in Educational Excellence Award.

Nominations for Region 7 School/County Boards or School/County Board Trustees are done through our Region website at <https://regions.asca.org/7/about/awards>. Those winners will also be recognized at the conference. Nominations are due January 18th at 11:59 p.m.



"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."

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

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REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

Mother Lode Charter

by Karen Vail, Mother Lode Charter President

The small but mighty Mother Lode Charter continues to stay busy. Several members of the Cabinet attended the Region 7 June Professional Development at the Fruit Yard in Modesto. It was great to get together with other Charter members and job alike to remember our mission as members of ACSA. As the 23-24 school started rolling members gathered at Olive Crush in Valley Springs for snacks and comradery. We welcomed new members who have joined our Charter and all participated in a raffle. If you ever find yourself in Valley Springs we would highly recommend stopping in at Olive Crush for snacks, beverages and fun gift shopping. Several members also attended the GMA at Copper Valley in September. Our Fall PDP brought DeShannus Gray, Coordinator of Social and Emotional Learning from Sacramento County Office of Education, to our Charter via Zoom in October. It was an enlightening and engaging presentation. A big thank you to the other Region 7 members who joined in the conversation. We are preparing nomination forms for our favorite event of the year, Every Student Succeeding, and look forward to celebrating those extraordinary students. It is always a challenge to decide which student to move forward to the Region level.

Retirement Charter

by Barbara McCleskey, RAC Charter President

Greetings from “RAC” (Retired Administrators Charter). Thank you to all former officers for getting our Charter off to a great start .

Our new officers for this year are as follows:

President – Barbara McCleskey; Vice President – Barbara Magpusao; Past President – Cindy Murray; Vice President Legislative Action – Bob Lee; Vice President Programs - all membership; Vice President Membership – Virginia Berry; Treasurer – Cindy Murray; Secretary- Dede Baker; Director of Conference Committee and Awards - Cindy Murray; and our famous Region 7 Executive Director/Consultant Mary Ann Sanders.

We had a great ending social last June. Cindy Murray hosted a Ravioli making party at her home. It started at 9:45 a.m. and ended at 9:00 p.m. Each couple made a stuffing of their choice and we made 103 dozen raviolis. It was a great and fun event. This year we started off with a social on August 26th with a pot luck at the Sanders’ home in Twain Harte followed by the play “Jersey Boys.” On November 10th we attended the play “Proof” at the Prospect Theater. December 16th we will be attending the play “Sh-Boom” - A Christmas Miracle at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia starting with a potluck at the Sanders’ Cabin in Twain Harte at 11:30 am.

At our September 5th meeting Sandy Howell, from HI-CAP, spoke on “Medicare Health & Options.” Also the future of RAC was discussed and beginning with the 2024-2025 year the number of meetings and speakers will be reduced. Presently we meet every month from September through June – excluding January.

At our October 3rd meeting Cereza was our speaker and she spoke on “The Life of Being Transgender.” Discussion took place on how educators can assist young adults through this stage.

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. Topics and dates for our upcoming meetings are as follows:

December 5th – Christmas Social - no speaker - Mary Ann Sanders’ House – 717 Maud Kump Terrace, Modesto
 February 6th – meeting only – no speaker – Olive Crush Farms in Valley Springs
 March 5th – Steve Ashman, CASA “Court Appointed Student Advocates” – Burley’s California Bistro in Modesto
 April 2nd – Loney Davis “Wheelchair Mission” – Burley’s California Bistro in Modesto
 May 4th – Possible meeting at Spring Conference
 June 4th – Ron Boren “Teachers with Music” – Oakdale Golf & Country Club, Oakdale.

San Joaquin Charter

by Jeremy Brooks, San Joaquin Charter President

The ACSA San Joaquin Charter Board has been actively engaged in enhancing membership recruitment and retention by fostering increased member participation. On August 24th the charter held its Fall Kick-Off event at the elegant Chez Shari, located within the Manteca Golf and Country Club. Notably, this event saw double the usual number of attendees compared to past gatherings. It featured distinguished guests, including ACSA Region 7 President Deb Rowe and Dr. Troy Brown, the San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools.

In the realm of legislative advocacy, ACSA San Joaquin Charter is making significant strides. On August 9th a panel composed of Jared Hungerford, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services at Calaveras COE; Jeremy Brooks, Vice Principal at Manteca USD; Jane Steinkamp, Assistant Superintendent of Education Services at San Joaquin COE; and Jose Jimenez, English Learner Program Coordinator at Tracy USD, conducted an ACSA Candidate Endorsement Interview with Edith Villapudua, a candidate for Senate District 5.

Furthermore, in pursuit of Fall Legislative Advocacy, the charter has initiated contact with members of the California State Legislature, extending invitations for school site visits.

Another important area of focus for the San Joaquin Charter has centered on providing opportunities for professional development focused on equity. On November 8, 2023, the ACSA San Joaquin and Stanislaus Charters hosted a professional learning event. This event addressed the underperformance of boys in our educational systems, featuring the renowned speaker, Dr. Don Davis, an expert in the field of education. Dr. Davis brought a deep understanding of research concerning the challenges that boys encounter in today's educational systems, along with interventions and supports to bridge educational gaps. As committed school administrators, you hold a pivotal role in shaping the educational landscape for all students, and this event offered valuable insights and strategies to address educational disparities and uplift our students.

Stanislaus Charter

by Toney Henry, Stanislaus Charter President

ACSA Stanislaus Charter is off to a great start to the 2023-24 year! Membership has reached a high of 505 as of the end of October. We are grateful for the participation of our members and appreciate district leadership supporting the mission of ACSA. Our charter events have been very successful thanks to your participation. The Kick-Off in August had almost 300 attendees present. We were honored to have Dr. Edgar Zazueta present to share the current state of affairs from State ACSA. Our very spirited attendance awards went to the following districts: Ceres USD, Stanislaus Union SD, Hughson USD, and Hart Ransom SD.

In September, we held our first in-person Breakfast PD since the pandemic. Over 40 people attended in-person and 70 were present virtually. We partnered with the Stanislaus County Office of Education and hosted a panel focused on attendance. Districts shared challenges, best practices, and student outcomes.

The Region 7 CEL Dinner was absolutely amazing with 900 attendees! The speaker, Kay Frances, gave us tips to manage stress. She reminded us of the importance of keeping a sense of humor and maintaining a positive attitude so we can experience peak performance and success in all areas of our lives.

Our most recent Breakfast PD was held on November 8th and we had a wonderful opportunity to co-host with San Joaquin Charter. Dr. Don Davis joined and prompted us to think about Equity through a different lens with his presentation titled, "How are your boys doing?" Dr. Davis shared a wealth of data and

challenged us to continue on the journey of contributing to research on this important topic. This excellent virtual presentation was well attended (90 people).

Our Cabinet is pleased with member attendance at our Breakfast PD Meetings. We look forward to bringing relatable topics in the new year and encourage you to join us. We hope to see you at our Employees Making A Difference (EMAD) event on January 17, 2024 and Every Student Succeeding (ESS) Program on March 12, 2024.

Tuolumne Charter -

Supporter the Whole Student Together

by Dr. Ben Howell, Tuolumne Charter President

The Tuolumne Charter has kicked off the year focusing on collaboration, job alike support, and finding new ways to inspire and support administrators in their work across the county. A charter-wide survey conducted at the beginning of the school year indicated a desire to focus on creating space and time to collaborate, seeking ways to support new programs and student engagement, and creatively finding ways to help rejuvenate and inspire staff. The TCACSA cabinet members have invested in the membership this Fall to help meet these expressed needs. The result has been a kickoff to the school year that has been inspirational and a lot of fun!

TCACSA kicked off the school year at the Standard Pour in August, welcoming a large crowd of new administrators (new to the area and the profession) for Taco Tuesday. The conversation was jovial, the atmosphere was light, and the collective breath before the sprint of the new school year was felt as the group rallied to begin the new school year strong together.

In October, the charter celebrated the Administrative Assistants Dinner at the Tuolumne County Sheriff Possee Grounds, a venue fitting in the atmosphere and picturesque appeal of the area. The charter celebrated the dedicated work of over 70 administrative assistants in the county who truly are the face and heartbeat of schools in Tuolumne County.

Heading into November, TCACSA was proud to host their Fall PDP Breakfast event, where job-alike groupings discussed how they are supporting the whole student in their area of work. From site administrators to business office administrators to county office coordinators, the conversation and collaborations that resulted reinforced and inspired a continued focus on supporting the whole student.

As we head into the winter season, the TCACSA cabinet is excited to continue this work this year to inspire Tuolumne County Administrators towards ACSA mission: "to advocate for the best interest of students and to support, develop, empower, and inspire equity-minded educational leaders."

STATE ACSA 2023 AWARD WINNERS

State ACSA Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year

Nate Diamantine is always looking to improve outcomes for every child - not just today, but for the rest of their lives. As assistant principal of Patricia Kay Beaver Leadership Magnet, Nate works with a Multi-tiered Systems of Support team to match the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of students with targeted supports. As the school's testing coordinator, Nate has worked closely with teachers and administrators to change the mindset around testing and improve scores by implementing a system of creative testing incentives linked to the school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program.

According to Principal Libby Callahan, "Since Nate began his work as a school administrator, he has been a leader of PBIS. He has taken existing systems and found innovative ways to build a common language and expectations that have led to student growth and success both academically and behaviorally."

Nate's role includes overseeing Ceres USD's K-8 long-term Independent Study program, ensuring that all students learning at home receive the services and supports they need. For the junior high grades, Nate worked with teachers to connect the citizenship rubric with habit-based lessons and tools from the *Leader in Me* curriculum. Because of this, the school has seen measurable improvements in behavior, academic growth, and positive peer influence. In addition, junior high students see themselves as setting an example for elementary students, creating positive outcomes for all grade levels.

Nate leads by example, giving back in countless ways. As a veteran of the United States Coast Guard, he organizes an annual 22 Push-up Challenge at the school to bring awareness to the issue of suicide among veterans, with nearly 600 members of the community and veterans' organizations participating in 2022. Congratulations Nate Diamantine, State ACSA's Elementary Co-Administrator of the Year!



Meet Your Elementary Education Council Representative

Who: Ramona Soto-Barajas

Job: Principal of South/West Park Elementary School

Ramona is the principal at South/West Park Elementary School in the Tracy USD. Ramona has been in education for 27 years. Ramona chose this profession because she wanted to make a difference for children just like her teachers made for her. She had so many wonderful teachers that had a positive impact on her life that she hopes she has impacted at least one student in this same manner. Ramona loves working at her school. Many times, she finds herself standing outside and staring at her beautiful school and thinking how blessed she is to be the principal.

Ramona's hobbies include going to the movies with her husband on a once a month date night and spending time with her family. She is a family of four with one beautiful daughter 12 years old and a handsome son 14 years old. In her spare time she loves to go camping with her friends and to travel. Ramona attended elementary and high school in Manteca and went directly to the University of the Pacific as a 17-year-old where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies with a BLCAD at the age of 21. She her received master's from National University in Business Administration.



TRANSITIONS

- **Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.** is the new Director III, Student Support Services for Modesto City Schools. Dr. Rumayor was the former Principal at Norman N. Glick Middle School in the Empire Union School District.
- **Tami Garcia** is the new Principal at Agnes Baptist Elementary School in the Stanislaus Union SD. Tami was previously Principal at Don Pedro Elementary School in the Ceres Unified School District.
- **Dr. C.W. Smith** is the new Superintendent at the Empire Union SD. He was the former Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources. He replaces **Dave Garcia** who retired in June, 2023.
- **Eric Griffin** is the new Superintendent at Mark Twain Union Elementary SD. He was the former Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment at Chowchilla Elementary School District.
- **Kevin Drake, M.Ed.,** is the new principal at Norman N. Glick Middle School. Kevin was previously Assistant Principal at Enochs High Schools with Modesto City Schools.
- **Brianna Cadotte** was named Expanded Learning Program Coordinator at the Amador County Office of Education. Brianna previously held the position of Expanded Learning Program Supervisor.
- **Laurie Hulin** is the new Senior Director, CIPD for Modesto City Schools. Laurie was previously Senior Director, School Leadership.
- **Derek Pendley** is the new Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources, at the Empire Union School District. Derek was formerly with Modesto City Schools.
- **Matt Medellin** was named Educational Options Principal at Amador Unified SD. Matt's previous position was Toyon Middle School Principal at Calaveras Unified SD.
- **Dr. Amy Peterman** was named the new Superintendent for Ceres USD beginning in the 2024/2025 school year. Dr. Peterman will be replacing **Dr. Denise Wickham**, the current superintendent, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Region 7 Welcomes New Members

Mother Lode Charter

Paul Bracco, Director of Transportation, Amador County USD
 Seamus Eddy, Assistant Principal, Calaveras USD
 Gary Grace, Principal, Calaveras USD
 Eric Griffin, Superintendent, Mark Twain UESD
 Katherine Hood, Teaching Principal, Calaveras USD
 Sean Moffatt, Assistant Principal, Calaveras USD
 Cynthia Warmerdam, Assistant Principal, Calaveras USD
 Cory Williams, Learning Director, Bret Harte UHSD

San Joaquin Charter

Scott Andrews, Coord. Curriculum & Categories, Jefferson ESD
 Erika Cabral, Student Member, Tracy USD
 Karen Coleman, Director, Stockton USD
 Heather Copeland, Vice Principal, Jefferson ESD
 William DeLong, Vice Principal, Jefferson ESD
 Gloria Giannosa, Project Liaison II, San Joaquin COE
 Justin Graham, Asst. Principal, River Islands Tech Academy
 Heather Gutierrez, Principal, Manteca USD
 Jennifer Moseley, Principal, Linden USD
 Shauna Priest, Vice Principal, Lodi USD
 Brittany Shephard, Program Specialist, Banta ESD
 Ann Siegel, Special Education Coordinator, Ripon USD
 Arminah Zarif, Principal, Lodi USD

Stanislaus Charter

Jennifer Adolfson, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Otilia Anderson, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Erica Ane, HR Analyst, Riverbank USD
 Joe Anthony Arista, Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Alma Baker, Vice Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Cecilia Bolton, Vice Principal, Modesto City Schools

Tamara Clarke, Asst. Principal, Turlock USD

Lindsey Dreyer, Student Services Administrator, Modesto City Schools
 Jennifer Driskill, Vice Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Brianne Duran, Student Services Administrator, Modesto City Schools
 Sean Evers, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Sonia E. Gomez, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Dawn Goudeau, Student Services Administrator, Modesto City Schools
 Michelle Guzman, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Margaret Hartung, Asst. Principal, Ceres USD
 Laura Leon Marshall, Asst. Principal, Ceres USD
 Kristen A. Marine, Vice Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Maria May, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Gemma Mazzera, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Veronica McCabe, Vice Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Maria Nuno, Asst. Director, Child Nutrition, Ceres USD
 Kristen N. Panou, Admin, Special Projects, Modesto City Schools
 Maribel Romero, Principal, Turlock USD
 Lisa Sandoval, Director, Business Services, Sylvan Union SD
 Logan Stewart, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Shawn Stuart, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Daniela Tapia, Student Services Administrator, Modesto City Schools
 Shalonda Thomas, Asst. Principal, Modesto City Schools
 Amber Topete, Program Specialist, Sylvan Union SD
 Christy Trujillo-Pedroso, Admin Assistant, Student Support, Modesto City Schools
 Matthew Wright, Supervisor, Special Ed K12, Modesto City Schools

Tuolumne Charter

Lindsey Bannwarth, Summerville UHSD
 Deena Koral-Soto, Summerville UHSD

Thank you Region Recruiters - Ernesto Calderon & Lisa Mezza

CEL Annual Fall Dinner

by Velma Silva, Region 7 CEL Council Representative

ACSA Region 7's Annual Classified Educational Leaders dinner at the DoubleTree Hotel, Modesto did not disappoint. A sold-out event of 900 attendees from 18 different districts that ranged from Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties were there to celebrate our wonderful classified leaders in our region.

Kay Frances, a professional comedian from Wilmington, Ohio who has a degree in Health and Education and an MBA, was the keynote speaker for the evening. Kay is the author of "The Funny Thing about Stress" and did a wonderful job of captivating the audience and entertained us all with her humor. Her message focused on reminding us the importance of managing the stress of the many changes in our frenzied world.

A special thank you to Alex Shoo for donating personalized notes pads for every attendee. Local businesses such as: Gervasoni's; Frantz Nursery; The Parched Goat; Luna Events; Van Groningen & Sons; Mobaak Aroma Co.; Eliza + Fern; California School Employees Association - Chapter 73; Horace Mann; and Outback Steakhouse donated a variety of raffle prizes for our classified leaders. Each charter also donated raffle prizes for our deserving guests. A classified employee from Modesto City Schools was the lucky winner of a free registration to the Classified Educational Leaders Institute in February, 2024 in Costa Mesa, CA. Thank you state ACSA for the donation.

The CEL Committee is already looking forward to a bigger and better event next year on October 16th that will exceed this year's record-breaking attendance. It truly is nice to see our district leaders come together to celebrate those classified employees who have such a huge impact on the day to day duties that support their colleagues, students, families and the community. It takes a village to provide an exceptional educational journey for our future leaders.



Call for Presenters for Spring Conference

by Jennifer Backman

Our annual Spring Conference will be held this year May 3-4-5 in South Lake Tahoe. It is that time of year where we are on the lookout for break out presentations for the conference. Below is a link to complete for break-out presentation proposals. Each break-out session is 1 hour and 15 minutes long and these are offered on Friday afternoon, Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon. In the past, we have had several amazing administrators in the area present on a vast number of topics across the region. We would love to have you all present at the conference! Also, feel free to share the link with someone else you know that would be great for the conference.

Here is a PRESENTER LINK to the proposal form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczuzHmPitKA_KSqeRHYAFRWehtoPt1F8sPDTXtQavTkE-bR0w/viewform

Please complete the form as soon as possible. We will be reviewing forms as they arrive.

Some of the topics that have resonated well in the past are: Leadership; Building Culture; Social-Emotional Learning & Mental Health; Navigating Personnel Scenarios; Current/Upcoming Legal Changes; Navigating LCAP/other funding sources; PLC Best Practices; Presenting Data Effectively; Engaging Families; Self-Care for Staff; Mindfulness in Schools; Inclusion/Special Education topics; and Effective Processes for Accelerating Learning/Academic Interventions. This list is not exclusive. Please feel free to submit a proposal that you feel would benefit fellow administrators.

We have an outstanding cast of keynote presenters lined up for this year's conference along with networking opportunities and recognition of our best and brightest administrators in the region! Information regarding registration will be available in the coming months!

If you have any questions about the conference or break-out sessions, please feel free to reach out to me, Jennifer Backman, at 209-529-9546, Ext. 1600 or jbackman@stanunion.k12.ca.us.



Student services and special education teachers, staff, specialists, and leaders have embraced a journey that is not taken by many. Working with students and families who face a difficult path can be challenging — but it can also yield the greatest rewards as we get to witness our students' strengths and their resilience.

ACSA's Student Services and Special Education Council invites you to "Destination Transformation: Embracing the Journey on the Road Less Traveled." Join your fellow student services and special education professionals at the 2024 Every Child Counts Symposium, Jan. 10-12 in Palm Desert. This world-class learning event features exciting workshops, informative keynotes, opportunities for skill development and networking, and always a few fun surprises! Region 7 offers a \$500 scholarship for a State ACSA member. Applications are due December 20th. For scholarship information and application visit our website at: <https://regions.acsa.org/7/about/scholarships/>.

Looking Ahead

December

- 5 RAC Christmas Social - 11:30 am - Mary Ann Sanders' Home
- 8 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Mtg. - 7 am - Zoom
- 12 Mother Lode Winter Social - 4:30 pm - Olive Crush Farms Tasting Room
- 13 Stanislaus Charter Professional Learning Breakfast - 7 am - Zoom
- 14 San Joaquin Charter Board Mtg. 8:30 am - Zoom

January

- 9 Tuolumne Charter Board Mtg. - 7 am - Willow Wisp Cafe
Region 7 Cabinet Mtg. - 4:30 pm & Region 7 Conference Committee Mtg. - 6:00 pm - Mary Ann Sanders' Home
- 10 Mother Lode Cabinet Mtg. - 7:30 am - Zoom
- 11 San Joaquin Board Mtg. - 8:30 am - Zoom
- 12 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Mtg. 7 am - Zoom
- 17 Stanislaus Charter EMAD - 4 pm - SCOE - Petersen Event Center - Modesto
- 18 State ACSA Award Nominations Due 11:59 pm

February

- 1 ESS Charter Nominations due to Tami Garcia
- 6 RAC Mtg. - 11:30 am - Olive Crush Tasting Rm.
- 7 Region 7 General Membership Assembly - 4:30 pm - Dave Wong's - Stockton
- 8 State ACSA Leadership Assembly - Virtual
Mother Lode ESS Breakfast (Amador) - 7:45 am
San Joaquin Board Mtg. - 8:30 am - Zoom
- 9 State ACSA Board Meeting - Virtual
Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Mtg. - 7 am - Zoom
San Joaquin ESS Breakfast - 7:30 am - SJCOE
- 14 Stanislaus/San Joaquin Charter Professional Learning Breakfast - 7 am - SJCOE

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