

Spring 2024 Inside ACSA Region 7

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**ACSA Region 7** 

#acsaregion7

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# Association of California School Administrators

Deborah Rowe - 2023-2024 President, ACSA Region 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ACSA continues to be the leading proponent in the state for school leaders and for our profession, and Region 7 supports this advocacy through Courageous & Effective Leadership. I hope you are taking advantage of our many dynamic professional development events in 2024. Consider

joining us for the last General Membership Assembly on April 17 at The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum in Modesto or the Region 7 Spring Conference, May 3-5 in South Lake Tahoe. Registration links are on our webpage: regions.acsa.org/7

As we round out the end of the 2023-24 school year, remember the work of Courageous leaders is not deterred by difficulty level. By demonstrating resilience and a willingness to tackle even the most daunting obstacles head-on, we set a

powerful example for our staff, students, and community, fostering a culture of determination and achievement within our schools.

The fruitful work of Effective leaders is beyond valuable, it is priceless. As stewards of our schools, effective leaders possess the ability to inspire, motivate, and empower others to reach their full potential. The impact of their leadership extends far beyond measurable outcomes, leaving a lasting legacy of positive change and transformation in the lives of those they serve.

We all influence through different styles of Leadership. Whether one leads with charisma, empathy, collaboration, or strategic vision, each leadership approach brings unique strengths and perspectives to the table. By valuing and leveraging the distinct talents and contributions of every leader, we all win. Above all, through kindness and generosity, enjoy the Journey!

#### ACSA REGION 7 ANNOUNCES REGION OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President: Tami Garcia

**President-Elect:**Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.

Vice President: Kristin Lilly-Porter

Treasurer: Araceli Zamora Vice President, Programs:

Kelene Blevins

**Vice President-Elect, Programs:** 

Laurie Hulin

**Vice President, Legislative Action:** 

Jared Hungerford

Vice President, Membership:

Jennifer Backman

Secretary: Janelle R. DeGreek

Past President:
Deborah Rowe
ACSA State Board Representative:
Scott Nanik

The new officers will be installed at the annual Spring Conference at the Margaritaville Resort, Lake Tahoe on Saturday, May 4th. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

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.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 Karen Vail, President

Mother Lode Charter is ready for some spring after a busy winter. The Charter had a Winter Social gathering at a brand-new establishment in Angels Camp. Some of our Amador members made the trek across the river to join in with some networking and supporting a small local business in Calaveras. ESS students from Copperopolis Elementary, Albert Michelson Elementary and Calaveras High School, are just a few of our Charter winners. Every student's story was heartwarming and inspiring. It will indeed be a challenge to move someone forward to the Region level. A huge thank you to the ACSA members who took the time to celebrate these amazing young people. The Employees Making a Difference Event will take place in March, and we look forward to recognizing the many dedicated staff members who support our students every day. We look forward to seeing everyone in Tahoe for our Region Conference- fins up!

#### Retired (RAC) Charter

by Barbara McCleskey, President

We got off to a great start this year. We decided this year not to have a speaker at every meeting. We still meet every month (except for January) and our last speaker was a gentleman from Second Harvest. Second Harvest of the Greater Valley believes food access is a human fundamental right. They strive to support the health and healing of our neighbors through equitable food access by recognizing and removing systematic barriers while practicing diversity, equity, empathy, and inclusion at the center of their daily work. 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. Business is conducted after the speaker's presentation. All meetings start at 11:30 a.m.

Topics and dates for our following meetings are as follows:

April 2nd – Loney Davis "Wheelchair Mission" – Burley's California Bistro in Modesto

June 4th – Ron Boren "Teachers with Music" – Oakdale Golf & Country Club, Oakdale.

We have had some great social events. On November 10th we attended the play "Proof" at the Prospect Theater and on December 16th we attended 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. Wishing everyone a wonderful Spring!

#### **Stanislaus Charter**

by Toney Henry, President

ACSA Stanislaus Charter membership numbers continue to rise! Currently, we have 506 members and with the support of our Ambassador, Kristin Lilly- Porter, I have no doubt we will keep growing. I must take this opportunity again to thank the district leaders who prioritize ACSA membership and support the participation of members in our monthly meetings and charter events. Our attendance at virtual breakfast PD meetings is steady between 70 and 80 attendees. Our goal is to increase the number of attendees for the April and May meetings.

At the December breakfast meeting, the YES Academy students graced us with their gift of song in the spirit of the Christmas Holidays. To support the ongoing efforts of the YES Company, we sent in a donation on behalf of the charter.

We kicked off January by celebrating our classified staff at our Employee's Making a Difference event. Dedicated classified professionals were recognized for their ongoing and exemplary performance this year. ACSA Stanislaus Charter knows these valuable team members make an impact in our students' lives and we are extremely grateful for all the classified staff who show up willing and ready to serve in our schools and districts.

During our February meeting we hosted colleagues from the Stanislaus County Office of Education. Gina Smith, Director I MTSS, and Holly Gaylor, MTSS Coordinator, facilitated an interactive session on CASEL's 3 Signature Practices: inclusive welcome, engagement strategies and intentional close. These key strategies can help us build and practice social and emotional skills and create a climate of belonging for everyone, building strong, equitable, effective learning and working environments.

Our Every Student Succeeding Program was the highlight for March. We celebrated twenty-eight students who have overcome life-altering challenges. Hearing their stories was powerful and reminded us of the 'invisible backpacks' many of our students carry to school. With the support of their families and school teams, our students can thrive and have bright futures.

We will close out the year with the following topics and a well-deserved celebratory event:

April 10th – Culture & Climate May 8th – Budget/Finance May 15th - Retirement Dinner

#### **ACSA REGION 7 THANKS**

**SchoolsFirst FCU** 

&

Horace Mann For Sponsoring Our February General Membership Assembly

## **CHARTER REPORTS**

#### **Tuolumne Charter**

by Dr. Ben Howell, President

The Tuolumne County Charter was so excited to recognize 25 school employees from across the county at the annual Employees Who Make a Difference event on March 21, 2024, at the Tuolumne Sheriff's Posse grounds. More than 150 attendees helped to celebrate the dedication and tireless work of school staff who have devoted their lives to making a difference in their school communities. The theme of care and support for the whole student resonated throughout the evening event. These two virtues, care and support, have stood out as the charter's theme this school year. Each event has cast a vision to establish greater networks of support for our schools, striving to meet the needs of our students best. And in these themes, TCASA has not forgotten to celebrate and have fun together.

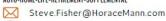
The Employees Who Make a Difference countywide event was complimented to the February Every Student Succeeding Breakfast hosted on February 15, 2024, at the Sonora Best Western Conference Center. The breakfast event captured the heart of the student community in Tuolumne, exemplifying the incredible grit and determination of 15 students who have modeled that despite life's circumstances, they are choosing to move forward and overcome. The incredible resilience of the students nominated this year is a testament to their hard work and the extraordinary network of support in Tuolumne County Schools. TCACSA is incredibly thankful for the Sonora Area Foundation's support and Dan Imfield's generous scholarship to each graduating high school senior in Tuolumne County who receives the Every Student Succeeding Award. These gifts from our local donors are incredible seeds of hope that provide opportunities in the future to open new and exciting doors. TCACSA is incredibly thankful for the extensive network of support for our students. Our community is a testament to working together for the benefit of our students.

Looking into the Spring, the Tuolumne County Charter is excited to focus our Spring PDP on new and innovative ways to inspire our work as school leaders and collaborate to support our students. Over breakfast, on our school campuses, and collaborating across the county, TCACSA plans to wrap up this school year, motivating each other and seeking new and innovative ways to support our students together.



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#### San Joaquin Charter

by Jeremy Brooks, President

The ACSA San Joaquin Charter proudly hosted its "Every Student Succeeding" (ESS) event on February 9th, a day marked by inspiration and recognition of student achievements across the region. Our heartfelt thanks and applause go to board member Pam Knapp, whose leadership and dedication were instrumental in organizing and facilitating this meaningful event. Special acknowledgment is also due to her team at the San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) for their outstanding effort.

During the event, we celebrated the achievements of fifteen extraordinary students from ten different school districts, showcasing the diverse talent and resilience within our communities. It was also a moment of pride when the event gained recognition in the March 18th edition of EdCal, further highlighting the impactful work being done by the ACSA San Joaquin Charter.

Beyond celebrating student success, our charter is deeply engaged in legislative advocacy. We are excited to announce that Jose Jimenez and Jeremy Brooks will represent the San Joaquin Charter during Legislative Action Days at the capital on April 28-29. Their participation underscores our commitment to advocating for policies that enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for all students.

Looking ahead, the ACSA San Joaquin Charter is eagerly preparing for our End-of-the-Year Event, slated for May 17th at Valley Brew in Stockton. This year's gathering is being spearheaded by board member Nelarie (Nel) Romo, who is pouring tremendous effort into ensuring its success. We are also honored to have Dr. Troy Brown, San Joaquin County Superintendent of Schools, as our guest speaker. Stay tuned for the registration announcement, as this is an event you will not want to miss.

Additionally, we are thrilled to announce a special recognition for retired administrators at our End-of-the-Year event from the ACSA San Joaquin Charter who have continued to make significant contributions to our educational communities.

We will soon be accepting nominations for this distinguished recognition. Please stay tuned for more details and start thinking about retired administrators you believe deserve this honor. It is a beautiful way to celebrate the lasting impact and legacy they have made and to show our appreciation for their service.

Stay tuned for further updates on our events and initiatives. Together, we remain committed to fostering success for every student in the San Joaquin County Charter.



#### LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY 2024

#### by Jared Hungerford, Vice President, Legislative Action

As the 2024 ACSA Legislative Action Days near, your Region 7 team of advocates traveling to Sacramento on your behalf will be emphasizing ACSA's One Voice Legislative Platform. We will communicate the ongoing need for robust and stable school funding, staff recruitment and retention, student and educator wellness, and streamlined accountability systems. Region 7 ACSA members who are constituents of each of our region's assembly and senate districts will share local and personal stories that connect to these important needs. Our students require the absolute best we can give, and to do that, we need the support of our elected officials. The current budget outlook for the 2024-2025 school year is especially concerning. ACSA's strategy is to make it clear that funding cuts have a very real impact on teaching and learning. To protect our students and the future of our state, we must protect educational funding.

In addition to the above priorities, there are several bills in the assembly and senate that have already been proposed which would impact education. These bills range from improving access to dual enrollment, preventing book bans, mandated kindergarten, and the renewal requirements of charter schools. ACSA's Legislative Policy Committee, including our own Region 7 member Jeremy Brooks, are currently evaluating these bills and ACSA will then determine an official position that will inform our advocacy meetings during Legislative Action Days.

I am honored to represent you at Legislative Action Days, April 28-29, together with the VPLA's from each Charter, and our Region 7 President, Deb Rowe. If you have any recent local experiences that highlight our legislative priorities, please reach out to me at jhungerford@ccoe.k12.ca.us and I will try to incorporate it into our conversations in Sacramento.

#### MEET YOUR COUNCIL REP

Who: Velma Silva

Council: Region 7 Classified Educational Leaders (CEL) Representative

#### Job: Executive Assistant, Sylvan Union Schools District

Velma attends quarterly ACSA meetings and the annual CEL Conference. For ACSA, her favorite event is hosting and honoring the amazing classified leaders in our region at the Annual CEL Fall Dinner at the DoubleTree in October.

Velma has been in education for 8 years and proudly counting! She always wanted to be a part of the Sylvan Union School District and after having kids she felt this helped her have a deeper connection with their education. She said it is astonishing how much you learn once being in education and the true dedication of staff to educate our future leaders. "It really takes a village, and I am grateful for everyone who has a hand in it from district staff to custodians, office staff, librarians, and teachers." She says each position plays a vital role.

Velma's hobbies include anything her kids are interested in. Her oldest played football and her daughter plays the violin. She also enjoys riding her bike. In her spare time, she likes to go on road trips and travel out of town.

Velma took business and accounting classes at Modesto Junior College after graduating from Ceres High. Fun fact: she used to be a math tutor for MJC.

Velma is Portuguese, grew up on a dairy, and always wanted to be an Ag teacher. Her Ag teacher in high school, Mr. Don Borges, really inspired her and gave her the leadership skills she uses today.





## **Annual Spring Conference Coming Soon**

#### by Kelene Blevins Vice President, Programs

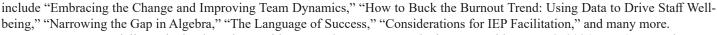
We are thrilled to invite you to the much-anticipated ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference, set against the breathtaking backdrop of Lake Tahoe. From Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2024, we are bringing together educational leaders from across the region at

the Margaritaville Resort for a transformative experience filled with insightful keynote speakers, engaging breakout sessions, and valuable networking opportunities.

Our journey begins Friday at 9:30 am with an inspiring keynote address by Joelle Hood. She will delve into the crucial topic of "Building Belonging and Cultivating Connections that Empower Individuals and Organizations to Thrive," setting the tone for a weekend of growth and learning.

Saturday promises another enlightening keynote session, featuring Kevin Taylor, who will speak on "Reimagining Student Success with an Equity Lens." Following Kevin's address, we will have the privilege of closing the conference with insights from Chris McPherson, who will explore "Intentional Leadership that Guides Us to Become Proactive and Purposeful Leaders."

In addition to our esteemed keynote speakers, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of breakout sessions led by local administrative leaders. Topics include "Embracing the Change and Improving Team Dynamics.



We are especially excited to host the President Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5:45 pm, where we will celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Region 7 Award winners. Please note that while conference registration does not include access to the Awards Ceremony, attendees can register separately to join in this special occasion.

New to this year's conference is the Women's Leadership Professional Development Breakfast, open to all attendees, starting at 7:45 am on Friday, May 3, 2024. This session, featuring esteemed speakers and a delicious breakfast, promises to be an enriching experience for all. Please note that registration for the Women's Leadership Professional Development Breakfast is separate from the conference registration.

Let's not forget the fun! Be sure to pack your Kentucky Derby hat and participate in the scholarship squares fundraiser on Saturday at 3:15 pm—a perfect opportunity to support a worthy cause while showcasing your style.

With enthusiasm building and registrations filling up fast, we encourage all interested individuals to visit the ACSA Region 7 website to secure your spot and your accommodation at the Margaritaville Resort, Lake Tahoe. Do not miss this incredible opportunity to connect, learn, and grow at our Annual ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference.

## ANNUAL CEL FALL DINNER OCTOBER 16, 2024 DOUBLETREE, MODESTO



#### Benefits of ACSA Membership:

- Professional development and best practices
- Career networking and statewide job opportunities
- State/federal student & administrator advocacy
  - Leadership opportunities
  - Legal support and assistance
- Scholarships to ACSA professional development
  - Leadership awards and recognition
    - Mentorship
    - Liability insurance coverages

JOIN TODAY!

#### **ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR 2024**

by Dr. Denise Wickham, Region 7 Awards Chair

We are extremely excited to honor our ACSA Region 7 Administrators of the Year! Please join us for the Awards Ceremony and Dinner on May 3, 2024, at the Compass Rose Ballroom in the Margaritaville Hotel, South Lake Tahoe. The ceremony begins with registration at 5:45 p.m. and dinner will be served immediately following the ceremony. School administrators will be recognized for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the students they serve. Help us celebrate these worthy individuals.

Please find the link below. You can register for the entire conference, or you can purchase Awards Ceremony tickets separately. We are expected to sell out, so buy your tickets today. Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acsa-region-7-spring-conference-2024-registration-482071788697

#### **Superintendent:**

Shannon Sanford - Stanislaus Union SD

#### **Superintendent/Principal:**

Dr. Ben Howell - Summerville Elementary SD

#### **Secondary Principal:**

Nickie Lamm, Don Pedro High School -

Big Oak Flat-Groveland USD

#### **Middle Grades Principal:**

Scott Ferreira, Somerset Middle School -

Sylvan Union SD

#### **Elementary Principal:**

Stephanie Pimentel, Adkison Elementary School –

Ceres USD

#### **Central Office Administrator:**

Annie Cunial, Division Director of STEM Programs – San Joaquin COE

#### **Secondary Co-Administrator:**

Marianne Ashby, Whitmore Charter Schools -

Ceres USD

#### **Elementary Co-Administrator:**

Laura Leon Marshall, Caswell Dual Language Academy

- Ceres USD

#### **Classified Leader:**

Anthony Luna, Site Technician Manager, IETS –

Modesto City Schools

#### **Confidential Employee:**

Marilyn Croft, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

- Ceres USD

#### Personnel/Human Resources Administrator:

Sara Gil, Senior Director, HR- Modesto City Schools

#### **Career Technical Administrator:**

Kevin Fox, Director I, CTE – Stanislaus County Office of Education

#### **Special Education Administrator:**

Janelle R. DeGreek, Program Specialist - Ceres USD

#### **Student Services Administrator:**

Carrie Albert, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services – Sylvan Union SD

#### **Curriculum & Instruction Administrator:**

Carrie Duckart, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction & Professional Development – Hughson USD

#### **Continuation/Educational Options Administrator:**

Sarah Cox, Principal, Elliott Alternative Education

Program – Modesto City Schools

#### **Retired Administrator:**

Dan Park – Modesto City Schools

**Technology Administrator:** Ryan Reynolds, Senior Director, Assessment & Evaluation, IETS – Modesto City Schools

#### **Professor of the Year:**

Marie Russell – California State, Stanislaus (Turlock USD)

#### Valuing Diversity:

Claudia Camarena, Principal, Empire Elementary School – Empire Union SD

#### **Partners In Educational Excellence:**

The Historic Murphys Hotel – Mother Lode

#### **REGION 7 SPECIAL AWARDS**

#### **Board of Trustees:**

Modesto City Schools Board – John Ervin, III (President); Abel Maestas (Vice President); Chad Brown; Jolene Daly; Adolfo Lopez; Cindy Marks; and Homero Meja

#### **Bob Price Distinguished Service Award:**

Nora Hana, Director II, Comprehensive Health Program, Mental Health Services – San Joaquin COE

#### **Bill Ullom Award:**

Mark Campbell, Superintendent - Calaveras USD



## Why ACSA?



Joining the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) has provided me with several benefits as an administrator. ACSA has created excellent professional development and networking opportunities. In addition to the professional learning opportunities, ACSA has helped foster a strong sense of belonging, provided opportunities for personal and professional growth, and has built a strong peer support network from colleagues throughout the State. Additionally, ACSA has provided me with leadership opportunities within the Stanislaus Charter and Region 7. Lastly, I have appreciated ACSA's efforts and commitment to celebrating and honoring students, classified staff, and administrators through various awards and honors.

Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr. Director III, Student Support Services Modesto City Schools



### Region 7 Welcomes New Members

#### San Joaquin Charter

Sofia Colon – Associate Member - School Board Trustee/ Clerk - Stockton USD

 $Mark\ Vos-Asst.\ Superintendent-Escalon\ USD$ 

#### **Stanislaus Charter**

Maritza Alvarez - Asst. Principal – Riverbank USD Kimberly M. Chavez – Asst. Principal – Sylvan Union SD Gregory Davis – Dean of Students – Sylvan Union SD Gloria Gonzales - Director of HR – Waterford USD Jean M. Kirkland – Asst. Principal – Sylvan Union SD Derek Pendley – Asst. Superintendent, HR – Empire Union SD

Sharokina Shams – Chief Communications Officer – Modesto City Schools

Amanda Silva - Senior Director of Student Support Services - Denair USD

#### **Tuolumne Charter**

Dawn Mori – Superintendent - Curtis Creek ESD Rebekah L. Wood - School Principal - Columbia UESD -Columbia Elementary School

A special thank you to ACSA recruiter Jose Aldaco!





## Looking Ahead In Region 7

#### <u>April</u>

- 2 Retired Administrators (RAC) Charter Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m. - Burly's California Bistro
- 4 Tuolumne Charter Spring PDP 7 a.m. TBD
- Stanislaus Charter Professional Development Breakfast
   7 a.m. Zoom Meeting
   Region 7 Cabinet Meeting 4:30 p.m. Mary Ann
   Sanders' House
- San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. Zoom Meeting
   Mother Lode Charter Employees Making a Difference
   4 p.m. Calaveras River Academy Gym
- 17 General Membership Assembly 4:30 p.m. The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum
- 22 & 23 Legislative Action Day Sacramento
- 30 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m. Willow Wisp Café

#### <u>May</u>

- 3 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Meeting 7 a.m. Zoom Mtg.
- 3-5 Region 7 Annual Spring Conference, So. Lake Tahoe
- Stanislaus Charter Professional Learning Breakfast
   7 a.m. Zoom Meeting
   State ACSA Leadership Training TBD
- 9 State ACSA Leadership Assembly Sacramento San Joaquin Board Meeting 8:30 a.m. - Zoom Meeting
- 10 State ACSA Board Meeting Sacramento
- Mother Lode Cabinet Meeting 7:30 a.m. Zoom Mtg.
- 15 Stanislaus Charter Retirement Dinner 5:00 p.m. Fruit Yard, Modesto
- 17 San Joaquin Charter End-of-Year Event 4:30 p.m. Valley Brew, Stockton
- 22 Mother Lode Charter Spring PDP 7:30 a.m. TBD
- 29 Mother Lode End-of-Year Event 4:30 p.m. TBD

## **Region 7 Officers 2023-2024**

#### **PRESIDENT**

Deborah Rowe

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Tami Garcia

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr. **TREASURER** 

Araseli Zamora

V.P., PROGRAMS

Kelene Blevins

V.P., LEG. ACTION

Jared Hungerford

V.P., MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Backman SECRETARY

Mark Campbell

PAST PRESIDENT

Jose Aldaco

**REGION 7** 

STATE BOARD

MEMBER

Scott Nanik

**REGION 7** 

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/** 

CONSULTANT

Mary Ann Sanders

**REGION 7** 

COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST &

**FACILITIES** 

COORDINATOR

C1 1' 17' '

**COR**/ Claudia Vicino

## **Charter Presidents 2023-2024**

MOTHER LODE

Karen Vail

SAN JOAQUIN

**STANISLAUS** 

**TUOLUMNE** 

RETIRED

Jeremy Brooks

Toney Henry

Dr. Ben Howell

Barbara McCleskey