

Classified Educational Leaders Council Meeting Highlights – October 22, 2025

Submitted by: Marilyn Croft, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent for Ceres USD

Council News & Updates

The meeting opened with welcomes and introductions, followed by approval of the May 2025 meeting minutes. Members reviewed the 2024–2025 CEL meeting calendar and began discussing topic ideas for the May Virtual Networking Event.

Refining the CEL Purpose & Goals

The Council revisited and strengthened its purpose statement, emphasizing:

- Advocacy for classified educational leaders
- Recognition of their leadership value
- Support for professional growth and ACSA membership
- Consistent communication between council members and regional teams

Opportunities were shared for showcasing classified leaders, including **Ed-Cal features** and **regional newsletters**.

2026 CEL Institute – February 18–20, 2026

Airport Marriott Waterfront, San Francisco, CA

Planning is well underway!

A dedicated committee—Chris Hoang, Ilinanoa Suliafu, Cynthia Arismendez, Victoria Webber, Lisa Marine, Francesca Whitcomb, and Marilyn Croft—is shaping the experience.

Theme Development

The Council reviewed theme ideas centered on **community, belonging, shared leadership, and collective strength**, including:

- *The Power of Us – One Team, Many Strengths*
- *Innovate. Inspire. Impact.*
- *Together We Thrive*

Potential keynote speakers include **Kevin Bracy**, **Dr. Candace Singh**, and **Dr. Moisés Aguirre**.

Institute Learning Strands

Planned topics include:

- Technology & AI
- Leadership and leading from the middle
- Labor relations & HR
- Mental wellness, burnout, trauma-informed practices
- Strategy, insight, and data-driven growth

Additional Institute Highlights

- Each region will contribute **two \$25 raffle gift cards**
- CEL scholarships will continue in partnership with regions
- Call for proposals to be released soon

Staff Liaison Update

Elaine Cervantes shared information on ACSA's strategic and annual goals, updates on the developing AI policy, and reminders about travel reimbursement forms (W9 & 590) and submission procedures.

Council President Update

Nominations for CEL President are now open. **Deadline is** November 15th with **virtual vote on** December 1st.

Next Meeting - February 18, 2026

CEL Institute – Airport Marriott Waterfront, San Francisco