

# REPORTER

## INTERVIEW WITH DR. CRAIG WHEATON

*Dr. Wheaton is currently serving as Superintendent of Visalia Unified School District. He will be changing positions in February 2016 as he joins the Tulare County Office of Education Administration Team. Dr. Wheaton is a candidate for the State ACSA Vice President.*



### **1) What has been your training and administrative experience?**

I have had to privilege and honor to serve as Superintendent for Visalia Unified for the last six years. My administrative training took place in a small district in Kings County and I am very fortunate to have had an opportunity to gain a wide range of experiences. Continuation high school administrator, High School Assistant Principal, and elementary principal are just a few examples. I have to credit ACSA for providing excellent staff development opportunities and I have taken advantage of those throughout the years. Everything from serving the Charter to Academies have been extremely valuable to me.

### **2) What has been your most rewarding and enjoyable part about your position as district superintendent?**

Serving as superintendent is both rewarding and challenging. I do consider my role as one who serves others and I don't consider what I do as a job. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to apply my skills and training as I provide support for teachers and administrators. I enjoy the day to day challenges that come with the job. My favorite part is really to spend time at schools, in classrooms, and at student events. That is what we are all about – students – and

maintaining close contact is the best part of the job. And as a superintendent of a district with 40 schools, it is important to maintain that close connection to students and not to get lost in the day to day demands of the job. What is your most enjoyable free time activity: Anyone who knows me will know that I love the outdoors, especially running! "Run Craig Run" isn't just a slogan for my ACSA VP Campaign, it is how I live my life. We are in the "Futures Business," helping our kids develop the skills they need so that they can pursue life success at anything they want. This is important but highly stressful work and having an active life outside of the job is necessary to keep a balance in life. Running is that balance for me.

### **3) What have been your leadership services and responsibilities with ACSA at the local charter, region, and state levels?**

I'm not sure where to start. First, I'd like to encourage every administrator to serve in some role in ACSA. It is a great organization and I have found that I have gained so much out of my service maybe even more than I have contributed. Over the years I served in every office in Kings Charter, Vice President through Past President. Similarly I spent years on the Region 11 Board and held all the offices including President. Over the last few years I have been active at all levels, Tulare Charter, Region 11, and State ACSA. I spent 12 years on the state Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability Council representing Region 11 for one term and then serving as Vice President and President of the council. More recently I spent one term on the Superintendency Council and I am in my second year as the Region 11 State Board director. Additionally, I have directed several Academies including the Curriculum and Instruction Academy, LCAP Academy and served on TICAL.

#### 4) Why do you want to seek the office of State ACSA Vice President?

It would be a great honor for me to serve as a state officer. I believe the experience I have accumulated over my 37 years as an educator and my 30 years as an ACSA member puts me in the position to give back to the profession and to ACSA. This is a pivotal time in education and administrative leadership is most important to ensure our kids have the necessary educational opportunities to be successful. I have grand children in our school system and I believe I can contribute by taking on a leadership role in ACSA. My main goals are to focus on student needs by ensuring our educational leaders have the support necessary to meet the challenges before us. New standards, a changing world, providing equity and access are all challenges and opportunities. I can be part of that leadership as ACSA assumes a lead role in representing administrators for the benefit of students.

#### 5) Why Should an Administrator join ACSA?

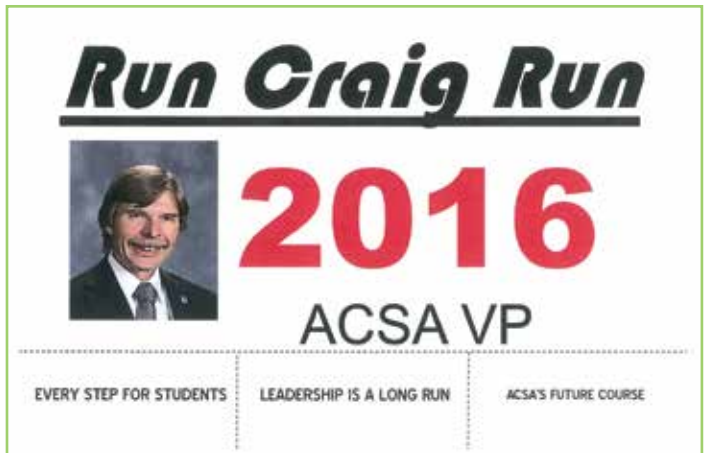
ACSA is a professional organization. We are not a union. Our goal is to benefit students and as administrators we have the responsibility to fight for what students need. To be influential in that work, to better support all administrators as they ensure quality programs for students, we need ACSA to be at the forefront of all policy decisions. ACSA is the organization that can influence laws, policies, and regulations. If we have the power of representing every administrator, our work with students will be more successful. On a more personal level, if an administrator joins ACSA, they are going to benefit in numerous ways. Everything from quality professional development to a powerful professional network and support group is what ACSA will bring to an administrator who joins!

#### 6) What has been the best advice you have given to others?

My advice to others is that our work is not about us – not about adults – it is about the lives of students. Keep your eyes on what is most important, serving students!



Dr. Craig Wheaton visits Visalia Unified School District Classes. Dr. Wheaton gives a high priority to visit various classrooms throughout his 40 schools.



As Superintendent Dr. Wheaton encourages his teachers and administrators to keep their eyes on what is most important, serving students!

## Presidents Message



All of us have been in high gear during this first half of the school year. It is hard to believe that we are on the downhill side of the 2015-2016 school year. As we prepare to refresh ourselves and brace for the coming spring, be mindful, that each and every day,

you do make a difference in the lives of your students and your staff.

Much planning has been taking place for the first Mid-State Conference!! Many of our own Region XI folks are on the planning committee. It is schedule for March 11-13, 2016 in beautiful San Luis Obispo. If you have not signed up, please do so right away!! It is going to prove to be a premier event!

We are continuing to support Dr. Craig Wheaton and his "RUN" for State ACSA Vice President. Along with making the transition to his new position to the Tulare County Office of Education, he is out making visits to other Regions, letting them know how qualified he is for the position. This is a great opportunity for Craig (and our Region) and we wish him the best of luck.

And...if you have not done so, connect with your local Charter. Your local Charter will have many opportunities for you to collaborate and learn from your colleagues. You will find amazing industry and creativity. Our Charter Presidents are:

Tulare County: Robert Groeber, rgroeber@visalia.k12.ca.us

Kings County: Bobby Peters, bpeters@hjuhsd.org

East Kern: Lisa Decker, ldecker@ssusd.org

West Kern: Richard Morosa, rmorosa@standard.k12.ca.us

Inyo/Mono County: Don Clark, dclark@esusd.org

You are truly valued by your colleagues in ACSA. Thank you for the work you do and for being there as a member of Region XI, ACSA.

Sincerely,

Valerie Brown,  
Region XI President

## Region XI Membership Scoreboard

Charter	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2015	(+/-)
East Kern	67	82	(+15)
West Kern	316	321	(+5)
Kings	116	119	(+3)
Tulare	437	456	(+19)
Inyo/Mono	25	25	(0)
CSUB Student	8	9	(+1)
Kings-Tulare Student	NA	NA	(NA)
Non-Assigned	6	4	(-2)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>975</b>	<b>1,016</b>	<b>(+41)</b>

Congratulations once again to Region XI for an all-time high membership of 1,016 a very special commendation to Kings County Charter for a significant gain of 15 members which is an awesome 22% growth. Wow!!

## "WHAT THEY SAID"

"All students in California need an equal opportunity to succeed. California is failing both minority students and low income students."  
**Marcellus McRae, Keynote Speaker, First General Session**  
*2015 Leadership Summit, November 5, 2015, Sacramento Convention Ctr.*

"An extremely powerful conference, everything was so well done from a very organized and speedy registration to all of the other events and activities."

**Dr. Blanca Cavazos, Region XI Past President and Superintendent**  
*Taft Union High School District*

"The California Department of Education has established regulations that provide that students "Shall not be required to pay any fee, deposit or other charge for educational or extra curricular activities, unless the fee is expressly provided by law."

**Randy Edwards, Presenter, Kings County**  
*43rd Annual Fall Conference, October 29, 2015, Hanford*

### AN ACSA REGION XI PUBLICATION

**Valerie Brown, President**  
**David Tonini, Executive Director**  
**Richard A. Schlagel, Editor**  
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## ACROSS THE REGION

- **Region XI's Second Delegate Assembly** has been scheduled for February 4, 2016 at 8:30 am. It will be held at Hodel's Restaurant in Bakersfield. Come early and enjoy a very delicious buffet breakfast. Order your favorite omelette, they are great. Charter presidents are encouraged to get all their voting delegates to attend. Your charter could be the recipient of some extra cash, too.
- **Region XI's Leadership Team Members** are to be commended for sponsoring an exceptional reception at the Leadership Summit in Sacramento. Dr. Craig Wheaton's campaign for State ACSA Vice-President got off to an outstanding start as administrators around the state attended and met Craig. "Run • Craig • Run"
- **Kings County and Tulare County Charters** had a very successful retiree breakfast. Well attended, good food and a lot of fellowship! They will have their spring breakfast in April 2016.
- **Tulare Charter** recently sponsored Networking Social. At the Marriott in Visalia. Kings County had to cancel their Networking Social in December but will schedule one the spring of 2016. Striving for additional ACSA members, along with fellowship and networking with your peers are the major goals of this event.
- **A Big "Thank You"** to Charter Presidents for encouraging your members to "Click On" to "The Reporter," Region XI's Quarterly Newsletter. May we suggest you make a copy and pass it along to your District and/or site administrators who are non-ACSA members. If you are not receiving your copy by email, you may go to our website: [acsa.org](http://acsa.org) and click on to Regions, 11, and news - each Newsletter and our Annual Region XI Handbook can be viewed on our website.
- **One of the Highlight Events of State ACSA** is the Annual Legislative Action Day. It is scheduled for April 3, 4, 2016 in Sacramento at the Sheraton Grand. Tom Addington, Region XI Vice-President Legislative Action, does a super job organizing and taking on the multitude of details for this special event. Please contact him at:  
email: [darthr@me.com](mailto:darthr@me.com) or  
phone: (w) 559-925-2619 / (c) 559-381-3662



## COMMENTS FROM YOUR REGION XI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



This past year, 2015, was a great year for the Region. For the first time the Region's membership surpassed 1,000. Networking/Socials were held in all Charters. Region and Charter meetings provided opportunities for members to interact and discuss important educational issues. Region Board Meetings and Delegate Assemblies were well attended. Terri Rufert ran a strong campaign for State Vice President of Legislative Action traveling throughout the state making many strong

connections. As a result, our Region is now recognized as a significant voice in ACSA. Unfortunately she lost by a narrow margin. The vote was so close that the ballots were counted three times. Terri continues to serve as a State Board Member, appointed to that position by the State ACSA President. Don Clark, Superintendent of Eastern Sierra Unified School District, was selected to serve as Chair of the State Small School District Committee. Over twenty Region Administrators attended Legislative Action Day. One result of that day was a visit by Devin Mathis, one of our State Legislators representing part of our Region, to the Inyo/Mono Charter to view firsthand the issues small school districts in California face. Craig Wheaton decided to run for State ACSA Vice President. Fifty plus Region Members attended the State ACSA Summit in Sacramento. President Val Brown hosted a social for those attending, and to promote Craig's campaign for Vice President. Two of our Region members were selected as State Administrators of the Year winners, Kathleen Green-Martins, Confidential Employee of the Year, and John Warner, Adult Education Administrator of the Year. Our Regions floated the idea of working

with three other Regions to host a Mid-State conference. The Mid-State conference is now a reality. It will be in San Luis Obispo on March 11-12. Region Grants were given to Charters to promote networking/social activities and to support Charter goals. Strong creative ACSA Region Leaders made all this happen. Yes, it was a great year.

In February, ACSA State President, Tom Armelino, is the keynote speaker at our Region Delegate Assembly discussing the One Voice Initiative, ACSA's Strategic Plan, upcoming State Delegate topics and the Every Student Succeeding Act. In March the Mid-State Conference entitled Transformational Leadership will take place. Space is limited so get your registration in early.

Richard Schlagel, our Region Newsletter Editor, is retiring effective the end of June. Dick has served in that position for twenty-nine years and is known for producing the best Region Newsletter in State ACSA. We will miss his high energy, creativity, enthusiasm, and great sense of humor. I will miss his mentorship and the many conversations we have had traveling to Charter, Region, and State Meetings. Dick has agreed to work with the next Newsletter Editor. We will be advertising the position soon.

Happy New Year! If I can support or help you in any way. Email me at [davidto02@comcast.net](mailto:davidto02@comcast.net) or call me at 559 280 6228.

**David Tonini**  
Executive Director - Region XI

## CHARTER CHAT



Dr. Craig Wheaton's campaign for State VP is heating up. We are hopeful his "Run, Craig, Run" slogan will carry him to State office victory. In more local news, we have had two very well attended Charter Meetings since the last Charter Chat, one in October and another in November. Donna Glassman-Sommer from TCOE presented

opportunities for members provided by the County Office in October. At our November meeting, Dr. Joe Hernandez from Dinuba Unified shared his District's methods to engage and support students. Supporting our Region and Charter goal of building and maintaining vibrant purposeful networks of educational communities we also held our first networking social on November 9th at the Marriott Hotel. A good time was had by all! Our next Charter meeting will be held on January 15th at Apple Annie's in Tulare with a District Spotlight on Lindsay Unified, and we look forward to our Winter Conference to be held January 19th at TCOE's new facility! From all of us and ours at TC Charter, we wish you and yours a very Happy Holidays and a safe and sane yet nonetheless Happy New Year! Carpe Diem!

*Robert Groeber,  
Tulare County President*



The next Inyo/Mono Charter meeting is scheduled for December 5th in Bishop. This meeting is primary an opportunity for the administrators in our area to get together and socialize and possibly bring some folks to our meeting that don't normally attend. We will be looking at our potential

administrators of the year and Every Student Succeeding nominees.

*Don Clark,  
Inyo/Mono Counties President*



Happy New Year! Hopefully everyone got some much needed time off to spend with family and friends during the holiday season. On December 7 East Kern hosted a meeting at the Grape Leaf Restaurant in Ridgecrest. Twas the season to celebrate, so we had a Social thanks to a grant from Region

11. We encouraged each member to bring a colleague who might be interested in joining ACSA. To allow members to share best practices with each other, tables were clustered in groups of four to encourage dialog. Sue Marvin reported on the recent Leadership Summit in Sacramento. Our members discussed the upcoming Administrator of the Year nominations that were due to the region by December 31. Unfortunately we had to say a sad farewell to our secretary, Heather Richter who accepted a new position at Kern County Superintendent of Schools. We wish her the best of luck in her new role. To encourage networking we will be having our February 8 meeting in California City. The topic for that meeting will be the transformation of ESEA to ESSA and the many changes that entails.

*Lisa Decker,  
East Kern President*



*Richard Morosa,  
West Kern President*

Officer Rodriguez of the California Highway Patrol and Zach Griffen, Bicycle Safety Coordinator with the Standard School District talk with students and KGTV Channel 17 television news in Bakersfield about the new "Vision Zero Hero" grant for Standard Middle School".



*Continued on page 15*

**Q: What is your feeling about the Obama Administration’s recent recommendation that called for a cap on assessment so that no child would spend more than 2 percent of classroom instruction time taking tests?**



**Tim Bowers**  
*Superintendent, Kings County Office of Education*

While I applaud the concept of limiting time for testing, or at least keeping it to a minimum, I’m not a fan of mandates that might interfere with a school or district’s ability to make decisions that best meet their individual needs or students needs.



**Don Clark**  
*Superintendent, Eastern Sierra USD, Inyo/Mono Charter President*

To quote former California Superintendent of Schools Delaine Easton at the 2015 Fall CUE Conference, “You don’t fatten a pig by weighing it.” We are over testing our students. Instructional time should be considered sacred. If we want our students to make academic progress we must give them the instructional time they need without the encroachment of overzealous politicians demand for weeks of testing data.



**FACES AROUND THE REGION**



**Dr. Guadalupe Solis**  
*Deputy Superintendent, TCOE, Region XI Membership Services Representative*

Recently parents and politicians have weighed in on the issue of too much testing and assessment. What are they talking about? Some of the recent articles and commentary on testing assume that everyone understands the definition of “testing”. So, What is the difference between tests, assessments, and diagnosis? Essentially, a test is a tool, an assessment is a process, and a diagnosis is a decision.

Once we clarify what we are doing (testing, assessing or diagnosing) we can look at some very important points to consider in evaluating student performance and progress:

A recent study indicated that less than 2 percent of instruction time is lost to testing.

49% of parents in a poll conducted by the Center for American Progress found that parents believed there is too much testing in schools.

However, three out of four parents believe it is important to regularly test students to determine their academic progress (Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research).



**Leiann Scott**  
*Vice Principal, Sequoia Middle School, BCSD, Membership Chair, West Kern Charter*

The essential purpose of assessment is interpreting the needs of each student. To really measure what students’ know assessment should not be limited to a percent.

Therefore, for students to be successful instruction and assessment must be ongoing.



*“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.”*

*-Benjamin Franklin*



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## 2015 ACSA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: COURAGEOUS LEADERS IGNITE THE DREAMS OF ALL

The Sacramento Convention Center featured the majority of the events, workshops, general sessions, vendors and other activities of the 2015 Leadership Summit. Approximately 950 administrators throughout ACSA's 19 Regions were in attendance on November 5-7.

*"This event marks our continuing commitment to student advocacy and providing learning opportunities for our state wide leaders," Tom Armelino, ACSA President, said. "This commitment each of you has made to California's 6.2 million public school students is paramount to why you are here at our Annual Summit."*

This year's conference featured four general sessions with a keynote speaker addressing a number of relevant topics. The first general session presenter was Marcellus McRae, partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher. He is a member of the firm's Litigation, white collar defense and investigations.

*"All students in California need an equal opportunity to succeed," McRae said.. "California is failing minority students and also failing low-income students."*

He encouraged administrators to be proponents for both students and teachers. According to McRae, minority and low-income students are receiving 2nd and 3rd class education programs. They need to be challenged.

*"We cannot rely on the legislators to right these wrongs," McRae said. "The California Legislature has a poor track record. The law requires students to have equal opportunity. Having an effective teacher is a constitutional right."*

The 2015 Summit provided rich learning experiences for administrators across our 19 regions. Now that the Leadership Summit is history, ACSA Educational Services is focusing its attention on more great upcoming professional development opportunities. Administrators had an array of opportunities to attend and participate in a variety of workshop sessions.

Two very special events were the Every Student Succeeding Luncheon and the Presidents awards presentation/dinner dance. Eduard Cardenas, Porterville

High School graduate, was Region XI's Every Student Succeeding Award winner. He along with other Region recipients, were honored at the Annual Luncheon sponsored by Indoor Environmental Services (IES).

Region XI had two recipients for the Administrator of the Year Awards. John Werner, Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction, Visalia USD was recognized as Adult Administrator of the Year and Kathleen Green-Martins, Project Coordinator, Tulare COE, was honored as the Confidential Employee of the Year. They were featured at the Friday evening awards dinner.

A highlight of this year's Leadership Summit was the Region XI's reception held at the Sacramento Hyatt. A special feature focused on Dr. Craig Wheaton's campaign for the office of State ACSA Vice-President. A vast number of administrators from various Regions attended the reception. This event was first-class and Region XI's Leadership Team Members are to be commended.

Other features of the Summit include a vendor faire with 50 exhibitors, Summit Bookstore, ACSA Membership booth and raffle prize drawings. An equity pre-conference event was held from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm on



**Administrators of the Year Recipients**

(L to R) John Werner, Administrator, Visalia USD, (Adult Education Administrator of the Year) and Kathleen Green-Martins, Project Specialist, TCOE (Confidential Employee Administrator of the Year) were honored at ACSA's Leadership Summit in Sacramento in November. Valerie Brown, Region XI President, congratulates them for this outstanding achievement.



the day before the Summit. A budget boot camp was also conducted at this same time.

Region XI's administrators attending this year's conference were very positive with their remarks as they evaluated it at the Region's monthly business meeting on November 12 at Hodel's in Bakersfield.

*"It was an extremely powerful conference; everything was so well done from a very organized and speedy*

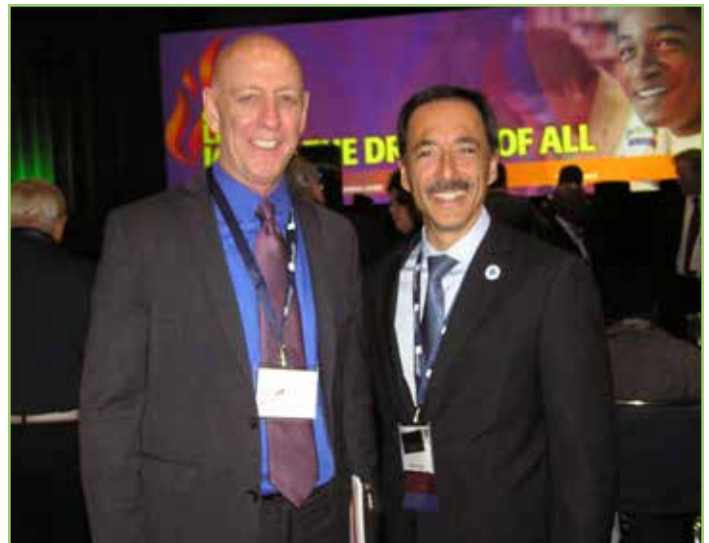
*registration on to all of the other events and activities," Dr. Blanca Cavazos, Superintendent, Taft Union High School District said.*

Next years Leadership Summit will be held on November 10-12, 2016 at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront. Mark your calendars for this exciting and educational event.



**Every Student Succeeding Awards Luncheon**

Attending the luncheon were Tulare Charter Members (L to R) Robert Groeber, President, along with Mike Tsuboi, Steve Tsuboi and Dr. Craig Wheaton.



Dr. John Snavley, Superintendent, Porterville Union School District and former State ACSA Board Member, chats with Ralph Porras, State ACSA President Elect.



Richard Morosa, West Kern Charter President, checks out a workshop session from his leadership summit's program booklet.



Dick Schlager, Editor Reigon XI Newsletter, joins Margaita Cuizon, Director Member Services and her member services staff during a break period at the Leadership Summit's Vendor Faire.

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## KINGS CHARTER SPONSORS 43rd ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE



*Lisa Horne, Special Ed Administrator, KCOE, confers with David Tonini, Region XI Executive Director, and Bobby Peters, Kings County Charter President. Prior to the dinner at the Kings Charter's 43rd Annual Fall Conference.*

Kings County Charter ACSA celebrated its 43rd Annual Fall Conference. This year's event was held at Hanford West High School on October 29, 2015 starting at 4:00 pm.

The Fall Conference is the major ACSA Professional Development activity held by the Charter each year. It kicked off at 4:00 pm with registration and vendor faire in the Hanford West High School Cafeteria.

Administrators had the opportunity to attend two-one hour workshop sessions. Sessions one featured the Google Classroom, Restorative Integration - SAMR Model, Restorative Justice and School Safety. Two additional workshops on behavioral health - mindful practices and mandated reporting foster youth were also available during the first one hour session. Each of these sessions were repeated during the second one hour session.

Attendees also had the choice of attending three other workshops: Pay to Play, School Construction Legal Issues and Round Table Session for Co-Administrators.

Presenters for the various workshops included: Melissa Crider, Kristina Seamau, Delbert Ray, Nicki Mendes and Ward Whaley, all personnel from Hanford Joint Union High School District. Other presenters were Robert Balderama and Dave Calhoun, Kings County Sheriffs Office, Kathi Felder and Courtney Coelho, Kings County Office of Education, Randy Edwards and Jim Lee, Griswold, Lasalle, Cobb, Doud & Ginn LLP. Kathy Culver, Sierra Pacific High School, was the facilitator for the co-administrators round table discussions.

13 vendors had the opportunity to share their products and services to administrators throughout the conference. This year's vendors were ACSA, Brandman University, EECU, Fast Credit Union, Garcia School Imaging and Sports Photography, Heine Mann, Bench Mark, (SNAP) Illuminate, Office Depot, Lexia, Ray Morgan, Sasser Specialties, Southwest School Supply and Lightsall. The conference concluded with a buffet dinner and drawings.

The sponsors for the 43rd Annual Conference were: ACSA, Kings County School Boards Association and FAST Credit Union. Bobbie Peters, Kings County Charter President along with Darin Parson, Charter President-Elect were in charge of this years conference.



*School Safety Workshop Session, Kings County Sheriffs Department presents a breakout session on school safety.*



### **Co-Administrators Workshop**

*Kathy Culver, Sierra Pacific High School Administrator leads a discussion session for Kings County co-administrators*



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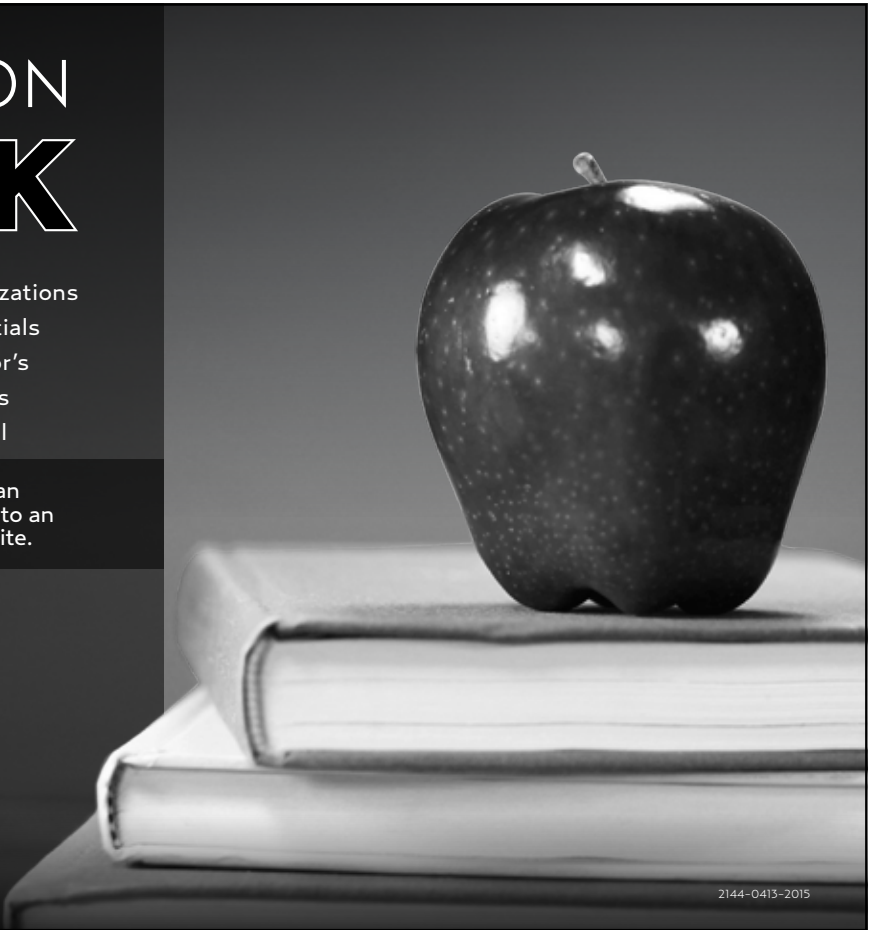
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## EDUARDO CARDENAS RECEIVES REGION XI'S EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDING AWARD



ACSA's Every Student Succeeding Recognition Program honors students who exceed expectations and also the educators who support them along the way. The state administrators organization is proud to highlight 20 students. These ESS award recipients are extraordinary examples of perseverance, dedication, maturity and grace.

Region XI's recipient is Eduardo Cardenas, Porterville High School 2015 graduate. The supporting ACSA member is Jose Valdez, Principal, Porterville High School. The support team members are Teresa Zamarripa, Counselor, Michelle Hapapoff, Lead Teacher, PABF Academy and Julie White, CTE Teacher.

In the 10th grade, Eddie Cardenas was burned over 65 percent of his upper body in a barbecue explosion. At the Fresno Community Hospital Burn Unit, he underwent two days of debris removal. On the third day he surprised everyone and got up and walked. But he remained in the hospital for more than seven months and endured 25 surgeries. His mother and father were there every day, and he became an inspiration to other burn patients.

Throughout his ordeal, Eddie managed to keep up with his school work through the Fresno USD Home and Hospital Program. When he returned to Porterville High School for his junior year, he stayed on the A-G track and applied to Fresno State, Fullerton, Monterey and Northridge universities. He plans to pursue a career in physical therapy or a related field where he can help others. Eddie is now healthy and strong, physically and mentally.

## JOHN WERNER: A 'BIG DEAL' FOR ADULT ED



John Werner, Administrator Visalia USD was this years recipient for State ACSA Adult Education Administrator of the Year Award. He was recognized at the Leadership Summit Awards Dinner in Sacramento.



One of the areas of education that was most challenged during the recent recession was adult education. Drastic budget cuts threatened the very existence of many adult ed programs.

But adult education is a key factor in helping older students become employable, tax-paying citizens. That's why it's so important to have an educator like John Werner, assistant principal of Visalia Adult School, who has been named ACSA's 2015 Adult Education Administrator of the Year.

Like so many who enter the world of school administration, Werner wanted to take his passion for educating students to new levels and have an impact beyond his classroom.

*"It has been a great move," Werner said. "Education is a rewarding career because we're afforded the opportunity to help others reach their dreams. Education has elevated my life and provided me with wonderful opportunities. It has equipped me to do better, and I want others to experience that. I want others to experience the success and joy I have had in my life because of a great education. That is why I became an administrator, to help others stretch their horizons and reach out for something better."*

In the brave new world of adult education, consortiums with higher education are key. To that end, Werner is an active participant in the Sequoias Adult Education Consortium, and chairs two of its subcommittees: Student Acceleration and Professional Development. In addition, he coordinates with the Tulare County Sheriff's Office to provide high school equivalency to inmates, and helped in their implementation of online GED testing.

*"We are in the process of defining adult education's role, where it still exists, in regional economic growth," Werner said. "Our funding seems to be getting stabilized, but that comes with new definitions of service and criteria for performance."*

Werner said it is important to look for the opportunities in new challenges.

*"We need to be creative and vocal. If you ask me, we are actually in a great position to influence law and define adult education for decades to come," he said.*

Despite his hard work, Werner was humbled by this award, an honor he does not take lightly. "There are scores of adult education administrators working hard in a very uncertain landscape around the state," he said. "Their work and contributions remind me there is always more I could be doing. We all stand on the shoulders of giants."

Werner said he has been struck by the fact that such a "big deal" is being made about the recognition.

*"I suppose it is kind of a big deal." He said. "But I have to tell you what is a bigger deal. A bigger deal is the impact that adult education makes on the lives of its students. We help the single moms trying to get off welfare gain some pride when they get that diploma and land their first job. That's a big deal. A big deal is when a parent is able to help their struggling child with math homework for the first time because of what they learned in an adult ed class and not say, 'Honey, I don't know how.' When the embarrassment is erased for them. That is a big deal."*

*"As a daddy myself with three little kids, I know that is a big deal," he said. "So the big deal going around isn't what I have done, it is what adult education is doing to better the lives of those around us. The big deal is the importance of our adult education programs to a population who needs it desperately. That is the big deal."*

*Editor's Note: The information for this article appeared in EDCAL's June 8, 2015 issue.*

## KATHLEEN GREEN-MARTINS: CONFIDENTIAL EMPLOYEE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR RECIPIENT



*Kathleen Green-Martins, State ACSA Confidential Employee Administrator of the Year recipient receives special recognition at the 2015 Leadership Summit held in Sacramento in November.*

Kathleen Green-Martins' strong commitment to critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication have been key to her success as project coordinator for the Tulare County Office of Education.

Originally hired in 2007 as a data analyst/grant assistant to help with implementation of the federal Partnership in Character Education program, Green-Martins has grown to be an integral part of the Character Counts office, applying her previous business and computer skills experience.

Her exemplary work in training students, parents, teachers administrators and community members for the enhancement of positive school climate and culture contributed to her selection as the 2015 Confidential Employee of the Year.

As project coordinator, Green-Martins is responsible for promoting programs that are vital to the increased success of students, schools and communities, supporting both Tulare County schools and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association Region 7, encompassing Fresno, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced and Tulare counties.

*"From a young age, I saw myself as someone who would make a difference in my workplace as a productive team member and leader," she said. "Along the journey in the education arena, I continue to aspire to achieve this goal in all my current and future pursuits. Becoming an administrator is a wonderful way to positively touch the lives of others, to make a meaningful difference, and potentially develop others to be leaders within our society."*

Her work includes continual development and implementation of the statewide Student Mental Health Initiative, safe school training, Positive Behavior Interventions and Support, Reduction and Elimination of Stigma Through Art Targeted Education (RESTATE) Program, and the Choices Prevention Programs.

*"The Choices Prevention Programs work with students, teachers and administrators to build protective influences and resources that promote student development (and) buffer risk factors that might otherwise compromise their personal and academic development," Green-Martins said.*

She described her tenure at TCOE as having been "full of small and large accomplishments." As an example, she cites the annual Character Counts Week celebration, which has grown from approximately 4,000 students to nearly 10,000 students in eight years.

Working with such programs as Character Counts and Choices Prevention Programs continues to give Green-Martins opportunities to show her ability to manage multiple projects and demands. Regionally, she supports multiple school districts and county offices of education, acting as a conduit to much-needed resources, support, training and technical assistance. Locally, she works with county schools to create annual implementation plans, and assists in annual evaluations of progress and goals.

Through her work, schools and districts are achieving expanded opportunities to receive federal, state and local funding for future sustainability, making a measurable difference.

From assisting with events such as the Festival of Hope and Red Ribbon Week Celebration, to staffing a Character Counts booth, to helping to organize a regional student film festival, to coordinating the Drug-Free Communities federal grant, Green-Martins is all about finding ways to collaborate and get the job done.

She said she owes thanks in particular to the leadership of Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Jim Vidak, an ACSA founder.

*"The recognition as the state ACSA winner is a truly humbling achievement," she said. "I feel that my accomplishments at TCOE are a direct relationship to the leadership we experience from Jim Vidak."*



## CHARTER CHAT

Continued from page 5



• Our Kings Charter had a very successful 43rd Annual Fall Conference at Hanford West High School on October. We want to express our sincere thanks and very deep appreciation to each workshop presenter, all the vendors, FAST and especially the administrators who were in attendance for this professional

development event.

• Our next two Charter's Business meetings will be held at Brandam University in Hanford on February 5th and March 4th, 2016. Meetins are 7:00 to 8:00 am.

• The Charter's next Retiree Breakfast will be held at the Vinyard Inn, Lemoore on Tuesday, April 26th starting at 8:30 am. Contact Bill Black if you have question, concerns, ideas, etc. Bring a retiree friend.

• King's County Charter members are to be commended for an awsome 15 members increase, a 22% growth, this past year. Let's keep up our good focus on increasing our membership again this year.

*Bobby Peters,  
Kings County President*



*Kings County 43rd Annual Fall Conference  
One of nine different workshop sessions available to administrators  
attending the conference*

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## ACSA EQUITY INSTITUTE

*Good day colleagues!*

*On behalf of ACSA's Equity Committee, I am reaching out to you to share some exciting news in the world of ACSA! The equity institute in Fresno begins Jan. 8 and we would be elated to have your district/site team participate and become future equity leaders/facilitators of this work for ACSA.*

The Equity Institutes are off and running!!! In conjunction with our equity partners, we are so proud to have kicked off 3 unique new professional develop experiences through our Equity Institutes! These institutes have begun in Lynwood, Oakland, and Victorville! These institutes have already featured keynote presentations by authors and researchers Dr. Jeffrey Duncan Andrade in Oakland and Dr. Randall Lindsey in Lynwood and Victorville. Dr. Ken Magdaleno will be a keynote presenter at the Equity Institute in Fresno. These dynamic speakers have brought a wealth of inspiration and knowledge to the participants already through sharing research, data, and practical steps in the area the cultural proficiency framework, equity vs. equality, as well as community responsiveness.

Thus far, over 50 leaders from districts and organizations around the state have participated in the first sessions of the institutes where they have begun to collaborate and build their cultural proficiency capacity in order to lead for equity. These districts include various site and district positions as well as board members from the following

districts, county offices, and organizations: Victor Valley UHSD, Paramount, Campbell, Vallejo, San Francisco, Roseville, Benicia, Fall River, Fresno, San Mateo, Turlock, St. Helena, Palmdale, Santa Ana, Moreno Valley, Whittier, San Bernardino, Lancaster, Riverside, Bakersfield, Westside, Chaffey; Fresno and Contra Costa COE; STRS

As there is still space and time to register, I want to personally extend an invite to your district team including any key equity leaders to attend the institute in Fresno starting on Jan. 8. As I realize that it takes a bit of time to process payment through district funds, you may need additional time to do so. Please contact me to work out the details so that they can still attend the first session.

*For registration details, visit us at <http://acsa.org/Equity.html> and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.*

*Also, watch highlights of our equity institutes found on ACSA TV at: <http://videos.acsa.org/acsa-introduces-equity-institutes>*

Nicole Anderson  
Diversity and Equal  
Access Executive  
Member Services





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Region XI

### TULARE CHARTER WINTER CONFERENCE

**Date:** January 19, 2016 **Time:** 5:00 - 8:00 pm  
**Location:** TCOE - 6200 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, CA  
**Cost:** \$35...\$25 Bring a Non-Member....\$40 Late Registration after January 8, 2016  
**Theme:** "The Science of Change"  
**Contacts:** Yolanda Valdez, Chairperson - (559) 528-4763 Fax (559) 528-3132

### REGION XI DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

**Date:** February 4, 2016 **Time:** 8:30 am  
**Location:** Hodel's, Bakersfield, CA  
*Each Charter has a quota of voting Delegates*

### FIRST ANNUAL MID-STATE ACSA CONFERENCE

#### Regions 9 - 10 - 11 - 13

**Date:** March 11, 12, 13, 2016 **Times:** 4:00 pm Friday - 12:00 Noon Sunday  
**Location:** Embassy Suites, San Louis Obispo, CA  
**Theme:** Transformational Leadership **Cost:** \$199.00  
**Special Features:**

- Variety of Workshop Sessions
- General Sessions Keynote Speakers
- Vendor Faire / Exhibits
- Hosted Social
- Delicious Continental Breakfasts
- Job-A-Like Sessions
- Charter Meetings
- Networking Opportunities

**Contact:** Conference Chairperson: Randy Bangs, randoll.bangs@salinasunsd.com  
**Region XI Contacts:** Donya Wheeler, dwheeler@exeter.k12.ca.us  
Terri Rufert, terri.rufert@sundale.org  
Valerie Brown, vbrown@tcsd.k12.ca.us

### ACSA LEGISLATIVE ACTION DAY

**Date:** April 3, 4, 2016 **Contacts:** Tom Addington,  
**Location:** Sacramento Sheraton Grand Region XI Vice-President Legislative Action  
darthhr@me.com