

ACSA continues to be at the forefront of state level conversations to insure your interests as school administrators are represented.



# Advance Newsletter

association of california  
school administrators

region 6

March 2021



## President's Message

*"Remarkable Leaders, Remarkable Times"*

Hello, colleagues!

By now, your school districts have already brought back students for in-person learning or have developed plans about the possible return of students. This accomplishment is not something to take lightly - you have had to deal with constant changes at the state and county level, to listen and respond to the changing wishes of school boards and students' families, and to engage in lengthy discussions with your labor partners around the details of reopening.

Congratulations for everything you have done to support your students and communities to get to this point. This has been the largest obstacle of most of our professional careers and your communities are fortunate to have you leading the efforts in your schools and districts to reopen schools.

We are looking forward to recognizing many of our ACSA Region 6 members next month for their outstanding work during the 2020-21 school year. We will virtually honor more than 20 individuals on April 29 during our annual awards ceremony, and although we are not able to get together in person, we hope you can all attend to celebrate your colleagues.

During the ceremony, two of our members will be awarded with special recognition: Parvin Ahmadi will receive the Nels Nelson Award and Hilary Dito will receive the President's Award. Parvin Ahmadi is the long-time superintendent of Castro Valley Unified School District and has represented Region 6 on the ACSA state board of directors for many years. Hilary Dito, the director of college and career readiness at the Contra Costa County Office of

Education, is largely responsible for our ability to pivot and shift our regional professional development entirely online for the past 12 months.

We hope you are all happy and healthy, and we look forward to seeing you all in person soon!

[Jacob Berg](#)

ACSA Region 6 President  
Principal, Pleasanton USD



## Region 6 Awards



**2021 Winner  
Parvin Ahmadi**

### Nels Nelson Award

This Region award is named after Nels Nelson who was a long-time supporter of ACSA and served as our first Region 6 Executive for many many years.

The recipient of this award is a person who has demonstrated ethical and moral leadership, continuing commitment and dedication to student achievement, and a visionary who lays foundations of educational excellence that will continue beyond his/her tenure. This individual has also served ACSA for many years and in many capacities as a leader.

This year's winner, Parvin Ahmadi, has been a stand-out leader in our Region for many years as well as service to ACSA statewide. She most recently served 3 years as our Region representative to the ACSA Board of Directors and 3 years on the Superintendency Council. Parvin is well known for her active and passionate advocacy for public school funding and student voice.



**2021 Winner  
Hilary Dito**

### President's Award

The recipient of the Region 6 President Award is selected by the Region President for their tremendous contribution to Region 6.

This year's winner, Hilary Dito, has been our Vice President of Staff Development for the past 3 years. She has been instrumental in reimagining our professional development program, renaming it from *Thriving on the Vine* to *Thriving off the Vine*. She has been responsible for pivoting all our events to a virtual environment. We have had more participants engaged than previous years. Hilary has been an outstanding leader for our Region.



# 3rd Annual Region 6 Equity Symposium



Over 100 educators registered for this Saturday symposium and they were not disappointed by the powerful conversations with colleagues as well as students.

Our student panel was asked to share their thoughts on:

- As we have been dealing with COVID, we have also been examining and reflecting on how we address race and racism as a society and individually.
- Now that you have experienced a different kind of schooling, what process, protocols, policies, grading, instructional practices, etc. would you wish for schools to consider doing differently?

All the students were articulate and insightful with their perspectives. They definitely inspired the audience in their call for action.

Sessions included showcase of the equity work in our region:

- Beyond Awareness: Disrupting Systemic Racism
- Equity Through Grading: Our Journey
- Ethnic Studies Now
- Grass Roots Action for Equitable Hiring Practices
- Persisting in Courageous Conversations About Race
- YES Power: Equity Involves Self-Care for a Healthier 2021
- Affirming LGBTQ+ Identities
- Black/African American Community Support
- Ethnic Studies In Action - Teacher Panel
- Showing Up as Racial Equity Warriors

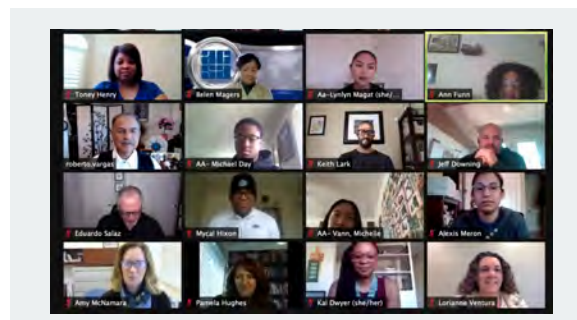
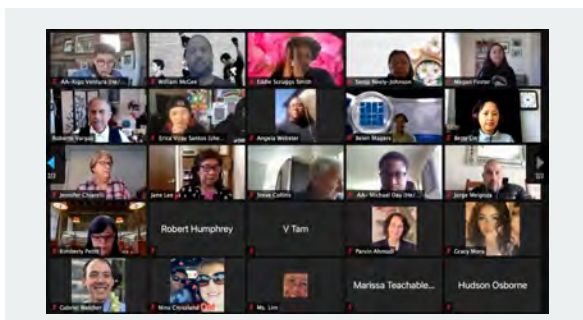
If you missed the symposium, here's the link to the Symposium website: [March 6 Equity Symposium](#). You can also find links to the Zoom recordings of some of the sessions.



Tracie Noriega, Region 6 Equity Chair, welcoming attendees to the 3rd Annual Equity Symposium.



Dr. Roberto Vargas, an organization psychologist, leadership coach, and indigenous ceremony leader, opening the Symposium.



Attendees listening intently to student panel.

Engaging in self reflection and learning as we increase our equity consciousness and anti-racist practices together!



Jorge Melgoza, Assistant Director of Equity in Mt. Diablo USD, sharing the work of disrupting institutional racism in a large district.



Jason Arenas, Co-facilitator of the SEL Community of Practice (CoP) and lead facilitator of the Family & Community Engagement Network, introducing Dr. Vargas.



A panel of 8 students from Region 6 high schools sharing amazing insights: Caden (Middle College HS), Gracy (San Lorenzo HS), Hudson (San Lorenzo HS), Jazlyn (San Leandro HS), Michael (Sylvester Greenwood Academy), Michelle (James Logan HS), Rigo (San Leandro HS) and Zyn (San Leandro HS)



## ACSA 2021 Legislative Action Days - April 12 and 13

To register, scan the QR Code or go to [www.acsa.org/Advocacy/legislative-action-day](http://www.acsa.org/Advocacy/legislative-action-day)

The 2021 virtual Legislative Action Day will bring ACSA members together online for a free two-day advocacy event. ACSA staff, along with experts in the field, will provide members with briefings and

guidance on current issues in education as well as offer the opportunity to directly lobby the legislature. Join us to hear our legislative priorities and advocate for leadership, equity, support and investment on behalf of California's students and educators.

[Register now](#)



## Region 6 Administrators of the Year Awards Selection



Thank you to Region 6 members who volunteered to serve on the Administrators of the Year Selection Committee on January 28. The members were selected to represent as many charters and districts as possible. Each dedicated many hours prior to the team deliberation in reviewing the 94 nominations submitted this year. Pam Hughes, Vice President of Programs, facilitated a virtual deliberation process for the committee divided into four teams.

Much appreciation goes to these Committee members:

- Karen Johnson (Amador Valley)
- Chris Calabrese (Delta)
- Greg Bailey (Fremont)
- Dick Lloyd (Retirees)
- Roxana Mohammad (Livermore)
- Ginger Selvaggio (Amador Valley)
- Erin Roberts (Delta)
- Alvaro Franco (Hayward)
- Julie Calderon (Newark)
- Christen Northrop (Diablo Valley)
- Cindy Matteoni (Mt. Diablo)
- Dustin Gacherieu (Castro Valley)
- Sonja Neely-Johnson (West Contra Costa)
- Angela Webster (San Lorenzo)
- Sally Espinosa-Herrera (Hayward)
- Paulette Smith (San Leandro)
- Nia Rashidchi (Castro Valley)
- Robin Sehr (Fremont)
- Nicole Joyner (West Contra Costa)
- Valerie Williams (Retiree)

For our 2021 Region winners, see [Region 6 website](#). All of our region winners are now finalists for the State ACSA Awards which will be announced at the end of March.

Region 6 Virtual Celebration will be held on April 26, 2021. More information to come.



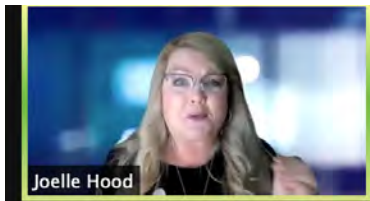
## Region 6 Co-Administrators Network

*Designed for Assistant principals, vice principals and other administrators in a supporting role*

In our continuing effort to support administrators, Region 6 has launched the first job-alike network for co-administrators. The overarching goal of the network is to provide opportunities to co-administrators to engage with, learn from and network with their job-alike peers. We can all agree that these are remarkable times with little precedence for all of us regardless of our positions. Our support for each other is needed more than ever.

3rd Network meeting is on May 4 from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. First time attendees welcome. Look for Eventbrite registration information to come.

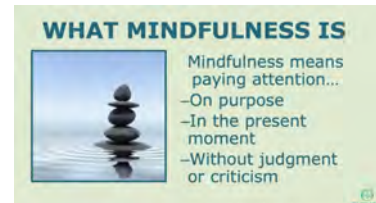
**Spread the word to all co-administrators you know, non-ACSA members are welcome!**



Dr. Joelle Hood opening the kickoff of the Co-Administrators Network on January 26



Strategies for Strengthening Personal and Professional Resilience



Dr. Hood's work focuses on research-based practices in mindfulness, belonging & connections, emotional intelligence, leadership, psychology & well-being, etc.



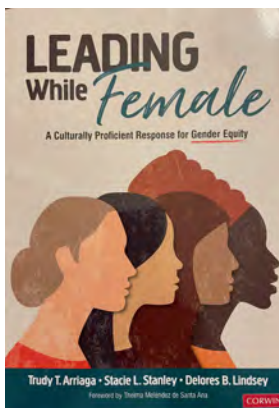
Matt Chamberlain welcoming co-administrators to the first network meeting



Attendees getting to know each other virtually!



## Women's Leadership Network



### ***Leading While Female, A Culturally Proficient Response for Gender Equity***

- Are you a female leader in education?
- Are you a male in a position of influence and power who can play a significant role as mentor, sponsor and/or ally for women in your organization?

If you answered yes, join us for dynamic discussions highlighting the barriers women face on their leadership journey and the tangible next steps to take and overcome these barriers.

Written by Trudy T. Arriaga; Stacie L. Stanley; and Delores B. Lindsey, "Leading While Female" focuses on helping both women and men educational leaders confront and close the gender equity gap—a

gap that currently denies highly qualified women and women of color opportunities to better serve our millions of public school students.

Join ACSA R6 Women's Leadership Network for a 3-part series focused on the book:

- March 10: Kick-Off - engage in discussion with Region 6 colleagues
- April 21: Conversation with author Trudy Arriaga
- May 5: Closing Conversations: Join a Panel of R6 Women Leaders

**3:30 to 5:00 pm**

Registration includes "Leading While Female" ebook. In order to receive the ebook code, you must be present on March 10. To guarantee an ebook on March 10, please register by March 1.

[Register on Eventbrite](#)



**March 16, 2021 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm**

### **5 Key Principles for Quality Distance Learning** **Presenters: Christen Northrop and Julie Dooley, Contra Costa COE**

The 2020-21 school year continues to unfold and present challenges to educators, students, and families. In planning for our students' future success in a distance learning, hybrid, or in-person model, we want to be strategic in offering opportunities for learning and moving forward.

Register at: <https://acsa-r6-key-principles-dl.eventbrite.com>

Look for Region 6 announcements for other professional learning opportunities. You can also contact VP Staff Development, [Hilary Dito](#).



## **Report from Region 6 ACSA Board Representative Parvin Ahmadi**

### **How does ACSA represent us in the legislative process?**

The ACSA Board of Directors ratified the two-year *One Voice For Students* legislative platform that was approved by the Leadership Assembly, which is focused on pandemic response and supporting schools along the continuum.

In previous years, the One Voice for Students Initiative and Legislative Platform were developed independently of each other. The One Voice for Students Initiative was developed and adopted in 2014 by the Superintendency Council in an effort to unify superintendents around key areas; thus ensuring school leaders speak with one voice on issues such as student outcomes; human resources; and school funding. In recent years, the initiative aimed to unify all ACSA members around prominent policy issues.

In an effort to align the One Voice for Students and the Legislative Platform, they were combined to create a joint process and one document to inform lawmakers of the organization's highest education priorities. The One Voice for Students 2019-2020 Legislative Platform was developed with input from ACSA membership and reviewed and edited by the Legislative Platform Working Group and the Legislative Policy Committee and then submitted for ratification by the Leadership Assembly and

approval of the ACSA Board of Directors.

The development of the Legislative Platform is heavily underscored by the current efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic which has fundamentally impacted the nature of public education in California. As such, there is no greater immediate focus than supporting schools as they are challenged to serve student needs by providing distance learning and moving forward with the school reopening process. The mission remains by ensuring students have equitable access to in-person education when their respective communities' health situation stabilizes is a paramount objective for the current legislative session.

For the entire document, [download here](#).



## From Your Region Executive

### ACSA During the Pandemics

At the February 18 Leadership Assembly, ACSA Executive Director Wes Smith thanked the ACSA staff and reported on how our organization has been "keeping the ACSA lights on" in the past 12 months and keeping the association afloat during an unprecedented pandemic. He is proud that ACSA has done more than that. Wes said, "We are influencing, we are serving, we are supporting, we are thriving as an association because of you (our members) and the amazing people (staff) behind the scene."

Listen to his report at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K5IP7hJ5VlcrIkPIrEi5Qe9PSQrhnbXY/view?usp=sharing>

### Thank You to Our Region Partners!

Since the ongoing pandemic started twelve months ago, our Region has had to change just about our whole operation. For one, all of our professional development programs have been offered free of charge to ACSA members and non-ACSA members. We have been able to do that with the support of our Region 6 Partners. Thank you to the following Region 6 partners for 2021:

- Teacher Pensions
- Keenan Associates
- Speech Pathology Group
- California Casualty
- McGraw Hill
- Alameda County Office of Education
- Contra Costa County Office of Education
- California Consulting
- Lozano Smith
- Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo
- Shoob Photography

For more information about each of our partners, go to the [Partners Page](#) on our website.

[Rose Lock](#), Region 6 Executive



## Our Partners

We thank you for your support!



## Charter Activities

The West Contra Costa (RASA) Charter held a fun networking event on January 28, 2021 where trivia games were the highlight of this virtual event!



## Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in November, December, January, February:

### Alameda USD

Doreen Bracamontes, Danielle Pharr-Matthews, Katherine Crawford, Sheila SatheWarner

### Albany USD

Ena Dallas, Jackie Kim

### Antioch USD

Tayhesha LeBeaux  
**Brentwood UESD**

Kristin Nisen, Brieann Estep

**Castro Valley USD**

Aaron Ackerman, Sharon Trieu-Quince, Steven Hendee, Patrick Hansen-Schmitt

**Contra County COE**

Caitlin Shelburne

**Dublin USD**

Matthew Campbell

**Fremont USD**

Thomas Ekman

**Hayward USD**

Monique Walton, Terry Piper, Wentworth Houston, Irma Torres-Fitzsimmons, Natalie Valencia

**Liberty UHSD**

Kyle Anderson

**Livermore Valley USD**

Terri Saenz

**Mt. Diablo USD**

Marie Gil

**New Haven USD**

Dung Kim Nguyen

**Newark USD**

Mary Sayers

**Oakley ESD**

Juan Alvarado

**Pittsburg USD**

John Zamora

**Pleasanton USD**

Crystal Korbas

**San Leandro USD**

Carol Alvarez

**San Lorenzo USD**

Alex Harp, Moraima Machado, Abigail Kotzin, Holly Johnson

**San Ramon Valley USD**

Carolyn Dobel, Debra Petish

**West Contra Costa USD**

Rocio Reyes, Tracey Logan

**Retiree Charter**

Patricia Bannister

**Thank you to the following ACSA member for recruiting new members this quarter:**

Richard Lloyd, Annette Heldman, Tracy Corbally (2), Lorianne Ventura, Makila Rowe, Dustin Gacherieu, Gary Krebbs, Linda Anderson, Ryan Shaw, Chris Calabrese, Sherri Beetz, Tracie Noriega, Lauren Griggs



[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)

[Region 6 Website](#)

**Region 6 Staff**

[Rose Lock](#), Executive

[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

**Region 6 Leadership**

President: Jacob Berg

President-Elect: Mark Neal

Past President: Pam VandeKamp

VP, Staff Development: Hilary Dito

VP, Programs: Pam Hughes

VP, Legislative Action: James Parrish III

VP, Membership: Renee Lama

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: Kathy LaCome

Comptroller: Annette Heldman

Equity Chair: Tracie Noriega

Communication Chair: Marcus Walton

ACSA Board Director: Parvin Ahmadi

At-Large Representatives: Raul Zamora, Chris Calabrese, Cheryl Cotton, Christina Filios

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela*

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