

Read our Region President's very inspiring message as we wrap up this year! Join us for the R6 Annual Conference, our culminating event for 2025-26. We guarantee that you will be inspired as you think about 2026-27.



association of california
school administrators
REGION 6

Advance Newsletter

May 2026

President's Message



Empowered to Lead, Inspired by Heart, United for Impact

Dear Region 6 Colleagues,

As we move through the final few days of our 2025–2026 school year, I find myself reflecting on the incredible journey we shared. Leadership can often feel isolating, but in Region 6, we proved that the support and community we share with one another are our greatest strengths.

Our evolution as leaders is a testament to the intentional space we built together over the years. We began by establishing *Leading for Justice: A Work of Heart*, grounding our practices firmly in equity. We deepened that foundation with *Leading with Our Hearts*, reminding ourselves that empathy is a non-negotiable core leadership skill. Last year, during *Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind*, we challenged ourselves to make bold decisions with deep humanity. And through it all, we continued *Thriving as We Shine*, celebrating our resilience and letting our collective brilliance light the way.

The work before us remains complex and deeply important. There were moments this year when many of us left sites and offices exhausted, uncertain, and carrying the weight of difficult decisions, but we were never alone. Evolving student needs, shifting budget landscapes, and the systemic inequities that persist demand our absolute best. Early this month at ACSA's Leadership Assembly, President Dr. Daryl Camp challenged us to "create conditions for systems to flourish" *by actively seeking out uncomfortable spaces where diverse voices are not currently heard*. He urged

us to be in the rooms where decisions are made. He reminded us the work we do shapes futures. "Behind every data point we analyze is a child, a teacher, a family, and a future waiting to be unlocked."

As we reflect on this year's theme:

- **Empowered to Lead: Leading with absolute clarity, conviction, and a deep understanding of the systems we shape.**
- **Inspired by Heart: Leading with empathy, knowing that belonging, connection, and trust are foundational to both academic and human growth.**
- **United for Impact: Moving together, aligned in our purpose and courageous in our practices.**

Our theme reminds us, when we move as one, we do not just make temporary changes, we sustain real transformation. Dr. Rene Rickard stated it simply: *one person does not have to be excluded for another to belong*. I continue to be humbled by the way Region 6 leaders show up for students and for one another, even in the hardest moments. Let us continue lifting one another up, leaning into the strength of our affinity groups and charters, and expanding our impact.

Lastly, just as crucial is our personal and collective well-being. We matter, too, and must prioritize the call to "take care of self," a lesson reinforced by Past President Rafael Plascencia's suggestion of *taking ten (10) minutes each day for personal well-being*. Our ultimate goal is to become not just a better leader, but a better human being. As we move into the summer months, my hope for each member of our region is to find time for rest, relaxation and rejuvenation.

Let us move forward with purpose, empowered in our leadership, inspired by the heart of our profession, and united for impact. The road ahead is ours to shape, and I look forward to traveling it with you.

In partnership and gratitude,
[Lorianne R. Ventura, Ed.D.](#)
President, ACSA Region 6 (2025-26)

Region 6 Annual Conference



ACSA REGION 6
CONFERENCE

JUNE 11, 2026
8:30-3:30

KEYNOTE



Adam Clark
Mt. Diablo Unified School District
Superintendent

EQUITY PANEL



Daryl Camp
San Lorenzo Unified School District
Superintendent



Rebecca Cheung
UC Berkeley School of Education
Associate Adjunct Professor and the
Assistant Dean



Nicole Anderson
Nicole Anderson and Associates
Consulting, LLC



Janet Schulze
Pittsburg Unified School District
Superintendent



MODERATOR
Tracie Tagamolila-Noriega
ACSA, Sr. Director, Diversity, Equity,
Inclusion & Professional Learning
Services

SCHEDULE

General Registration and Breakfast
Welcome & Keynote
Coffee Break
Breakout Session #1
Breakout Session #2
Lunch
Breakout Session #3
Cookie/Snack Break
Centering Activity
Equity Panel
Raffle

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/acsar6conference2026>

DoubleTree Hotel
7050 Johnson Dr., Pleasanton

Let's celebrate another remarkable year

Empowered to Lead, Inspired by Heart, United for Impact

Keynote: Dr. Adam Clark, Superintendent of Mt Diablo USD

Equity Panel

Daryl Camp, ACSA President & Superintendent, San Lorenzo USD

Janet Schulz, Superintendent, Pittsburg USD

Nicole Anderson, CEO, Nicole Anderson & Associates

Rebecca Cheung, Assistant Dean, Berkeley School of Education

Moderator

Tracie Noriega, ACSA Sr Director of DEI & Professional Learning

Breakout Sessions

Featuring our ACSA Region 6 members

Thursday, June 11, 2026

8:30 to 3:30 pm

DoubleTree Pleasanton

7:30 - 8:45 am (Superintendents Breakfast)

FREE to R6 Superintendents

Sponsored by SchoolsFirst FCU

Conference Registration ONLY \$95

(includes breakfast, lunch, snack, raffle prizes)

Register now on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)

<https://2026ACSARegion6Conference.eventbrite.com>

Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner

On Thursday, April 23, we celebrated Region 6's exceptional leaders with over 300 guests in attendance. The evening highlighted the excellence and dedication that exemplify educational leadership in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The night also offered a moment to reflect on the collective impact of educators throughout the region. The honorees were champions of diversity, equity, and inclusion—not just in principle, but through tangible, boots-on-the-ground work that has changed lives every single day.

Thank you to Vice President of Programs Paulette Smith who masterfully emceed a special and memorable celebration for all award winners and nominees.

We especially thank those of you who took the time to nominate colleagues for deserving recognitions. Look for 2027 AOY nomination info in the fall.



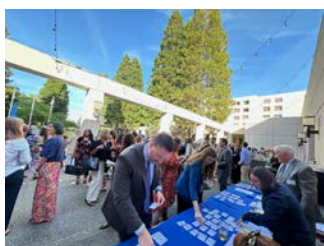
ACSA President Daryl Camp and Region 6 President Lorianne Ventura welcoming 300 guests gathered to recognize our region's honorees



A beautiful venue ready for the evening's festivities



The talented Liberty High School Jazz Band performing at the pre-dinner reception



What a beautiful evening to celebrate 80+ outstanding Region 6 honorees



R6 President's Award recipient Janet Gates with her family and friends



New Haven attendees celebrating their nominees and region winner Mikey McKelvey



R6 Vice President of Programs and MC, Paulette



Rose Lock recognizing three Region 6 Diamond Partners: Dr. Lala Zhang (Learning Genie), Cindy Lawson (Right



Diamond Partner Cindy Lawson and President Lorianne Ventura presenting Partners in Excellence Award

Smith, welcoming guests to our annual awards dinner



Paulette Smith and Lorianne Ventura with Alysse Castro presenting the Valuing Diversity Award to Zetha Nobles

At School) and JP Turgeon (SchoolBeat)



Lorianne Ventura presenting the Superintendent of the Year Award to Janet Schulze

to the Castro Valley Arts Foundation



Paulette Smith and Lorianne Ventura congratulating Secondary Principal honorees



Daniel Musselman receiving his award as the R6 Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year



Nominees for R6 Middle Grades Co-Administrators of the Year



R6 Student Services Administrator of the Year Rosie Reid posing with fellow nominees



This year's Friend of Region 6 Award was presented to SPG Therapy and Education



Long time ACSA member and leader, Janet Gates, was selected as the recipient of the Region 6 President's Award



A consummate ACSA champion and former R6 President, Matt Chamberlain, receiving the R6 Nels Nelson Award named in honor of the first Executive Director of R6



State ACSA Award Winner

We are proud to announce that Daniel Musselman was selected as the ACSA Secondary Co-Administrator of the Year. Daniel is the Vice Principal of Livermore High School in the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District.

ACSA Administrator of the Year awards in 21 categories and five special awards are given to outstanding educational leaders and a partnership program.

Recipients will be featured in EdCal beginning in June and honored at the Leadership Summit Statewide Awards Ceremony on November 6 in Chula Vista.

Congratulations, Daniel!

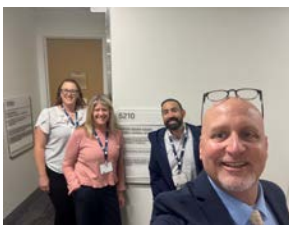


Region 6 Members Showing Up On ACSA Legislative Action Days

This year's Leg Action Days were held on April 20-21 with 16 members representing Region 6 in Sacramento. ACSA Governmental Relations staff and region VPLA's identified 3 key issues as ACSA's focus for this year's LAD advocacy. Our team was well prepared to share their stories supporting these issues in their meetings with legislators and their aides:

- Robust and stable school funding (fully funding Prop 98)
- Classroom continuity (staffing shortages particularly substitutes)
- Strengthening and streamlining accountability (burden of duplicative and outdated reporting requirements)

This year, the Region 6 team included a number of first time participants who found the experience to be very rewarding. Christine Offerman, a Principal in the San Ramon Valley USD and first time attendee, shared with her charter recently that the experience was eye opening. She found the opportunity to share real stories from her daily work was empowering and that everyone should participate in LAD at least once!



To keep up with ACSA's outstanding advocacy work, check the ACSA website. Look for ACSA's publication "Advocacy in Action" each month in your email.



Region 6 Professional Learning



Trust & Inspire for Educators

Empowering School Leaders to Build Trust, Inspire Growth, and Transform School Culture

On Saturday, April 24, over 20 Region 6 leaders participated in this incredible learning session facilitated by Dr. Candy Singh, a former superintendent, university professor, national speaker, coach and consultant!



A dedicated group of R6 leaders engaged in learning together on a Saturday!



Dr. Candy Singh opened the day inviting participants to reflect on the beginning of their leadership journey



Dr. Singh with participants from Byron ESD, Anna Foster and Superintendent Crystal Castaneda



Region 6 AAPI Network

The Region 6 AAPI Administrators Network was launched last fall to create an affinity space to network and learn together. An invitation was sent to Region 6 self-identified AAPI ACSA members. The Steering Committee surveyed those members who joined the network and planned 5 meetings based on their interest in networking, socializing, and learning. Two of the meetings were virtual featuring speakers who shared their leadership journey and provided tips to members in advancing their professional career. We also had two social gatherings at local Asian restaurants where we enjoyed dim sum and hot pot dinners. The last social event of the year will be held on June 10 at a pho restaurant in Dublin.

In year 2, we are expanding this network to include new ACSA AAPI leaders and allies. If you are interested, please complete the [Google Form at this link](#).

Any questions? Contact any member of the steering committee: Hong Nguyen (SRVUSD), Tri Nguyen (Alameda USD), Mimi Quan (CCCOE), Susan Shi (Castro Valley USD), Margrette Wui (SRVUSD) and Rose Lock (Region 6 Executive Director).



In February, members gathered to connect with each other while enjoying a fun and delicious hot pot dinner

Hanna Ma was the lucky winner of a raffle prize donated by a R6 Partner



R6 Student Awards Reception



We celebrated our student scholarship recipients and Every Student Succeeding winner and finalists on May 12. Our region awarded \$2000 scholarships to 18 students.

We recognized Angie Molina from San Ramon Valley Unified School District as the R6 Every Student Succeeding Winner. She received a \$1000 award along with finalists each receiving \$250 award. Congratulations to this impressive group of students!

Look for scholarship applications and ESS nomination forms for 2026-27 on Region 6 website in August.



ACSA Professional Learning



ACSA Academies are the fast track to leadership growth and career advancement for California school administrators, confidential employees, and classified managers. Through intensive, job-specific programs, participants build practical leadership and management skills while preparing for advanced roles across school and district leadership.

Designed to meet the real needs of today's education leaders, ACSA Academies provide high-quality professional learning in a collaborative cohort environment that supports professional growth, networking, and long-term career advancement.

For the 2026–27 year, ACSA Academies will be offered in flexible online and hybrid formats to support busy education professionals across California.

New for 2026–27:

- ACSA-AASA Aspiring Superintendents Academy® for Women Leaders: In partnership with AASA, this distinctive academy is designed for women preparing for or exploring the superintendency. Led by current and retired women superintendents, the program offers immersive learning, mentorship, coaching, and access to a powerful national leadership network.
- Early Education Leaders Academy: This new cohort-based academy supports leaders serving young learners and their families through practical, equity-centered leadership development grounded in research, policy, and best practices in early childhood education.

ACSA is your partner in building the skills, confidence, and connections needed to lead now and into the future. Explore cohorts and register today at:

<https://bit.ly/ACSA2026Academies>

NOTE: Region 6 offers reimbursement scholarships each year to support our members' enrollment. Check [our website](#) about this scholarship. Applications for 2026-27 will be available in August.



For Current and Future ACSA Retirees

If you are not a retiree now, you will be someday!

A couple of things about retired educators, they continue to be passionate about public education for all students and have a desire to learn. The ACSA Council of Retired Leaders has been highly vocal and action oriented. Remember that this is the group who worked tirelessly for over a decade to lobby the successful repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset in January 2025!

The Council published its first quarterly newsletter on April 1 for ACSA members age 55+ retired or approaching retirement. It has held two virtual sessions: "*What's Next? Life after Leadership*" and "*Finances in Retirement*." If you missed or did not receive these communications, go back to your email inbox or spam folder and be sure your profile is current.

A survey was sent to members age 55+ in November 2025 who were in or moving towards retirement. Results are already guiding the work of the council. Here's a [link to the survey results](#). You can also find an article on the survey written by Council President Marc Winger on page 4 of the April 20 issue of EdCal.

With 247 members, Region 6 has one of the largest retiree charters in ACSA. We continue to look for ways to engage more of these members. It is also important for our region to assist our members to continue their ACSA membership as they transition into retirement. We need to increase our effort to communicate the mission of the ACSA Council of Retired Leaders which is **"to ensure that the transition doesn't mean the end of professional involvement but rather a new chapter of service and opportunity."**

The R6 Retiree Charter holds 3 luncheon meetings a year. The last one this year was held on May 21 with guest speaker Richard Zapien on "Empowering Educators in the age of Artificial Intelligence." Richard is currently the Coordinator for the California Computer Science Project. The Charter has had many interesting and relevant speakers so come join us.

If you are moving into retirement, remember your ACSA membership does not continue. You must sign up for a retiree membership. Check ACSA website at acsa.org.

Please share this info with any colleague you know who is retiring. ACSA continues to provide amazing opportunities for leadership and service even in retirement.

Contact Region 6 Executive Director [Rose Lock](#) if you have any questions.



Richard Zapien speaking to retirees about understanding AI



From Region 6 Executive Director

Belonging to ACSA

One of the many benefits of membership in a professional organization is the many opportunities to develop your leadership. What makes ACSA such an influential organization is the dedication of our members. It can only function on such high level thanks to those members who give their service at the state, region and local charter level.

Our gratitude to the following Region 6 Executive Committee Members for 2026-27:

Christina Filios (President)
Dustin Gacherieu (Presiden-Elect)
Lorianne Ventura (Past President)
Efa Huckaby (VP Leg Action)
Erin Roberts (VP Membership)
Paulette Smith (VP Programs)
Hong Nguyen (VP Staff Development)
Valerie Nebo (Secretary)
Suzy Chan (Treasurer)
Raul Zamora (State Board Rep)
Monique Walton (Equity Chair)
Pam VandeKamp (Communication Chair)
Deb Brill (At-Large Rep)
Nia Rashidchi (At-Large Rep)
Farnaz Heydari (At-Large Rep)
Danielle Winford (At-Large Rep)

Region 6 is governed by a 50-member Board of Directors which also includes the 16-member Executive Committee. The Executive Committee meets monthly and manages the routine business of the region. Check out our website at <https://regions.acsa.org/6/>

If you are interested in ACSA leadership, start with your local charter president. List of all our charter presidents can be found on our website.

Are you taking advantage of all the benefits of belonging to ACSA? We often hear comments about what members get. Did you know ACSA updated its website to facilitate easier access to a multitude of resources and information? Go there ASAP and be sure you have created a login account. Update your profile, especially if you have changed positions or locations. Accurate info is necessary for you to get current communication from ACSA. If you are not getting emails or publications, reach out to member services. Before you do that, check your spam folder first!

Lastly, I want to recognize our outgoing President Lorianne Ventura for her outstanding leadership this year. Her dedication to ACSA and passion for supporting not only students but also those who can influence the landscape that allows all our students to achieve are unmatched. She provided a clear vision that was built on her predecessors' equally passionate beliefs and guided our region's work. Thank you, Lori, for always modeling the best leadership traits and serving so generously!

Have a great end of the school year and hope to see many of you at our annual conference on June 11! It's an absolute honor to serve you.

Rose Lock
Region 6 Executive Director



Welcome New ACSA Members



Welcome to the following new ACSA members in Region 6 during March - May!

Alameda County Office of Ed
Elliazbeth Blevins

Albany USD
Julie Sen

Contra Costa County Office of Ed
Tiffani Mason

Mt. Diablo USD
Jaylani Cortes

New Haven USD
Orlando Cabcabin

Newark USD

Datoya Lemus

Orinda UESD

Pauline Honaryar, Cherrie Deangkinay

Aspire Public Schools

Angelina Saldana



Partners Corner

We congratulate long time partner SPG Therapy and Education who was recognized at the recent Region 6 Awards Dinner as this years' Friend of Region 6 Award! SPG Therapy and Education has been our partner for over a decade. We especially want to express our gratitude to Susan Stark, SPG President, who has been an invaluable partner to our region, our members, and our districts. Thank you! (sorry you were unable to attend our Awards Dinner, Susan)



Thank you to our ACSA Region 6 partners whose donations and sponsorships support various programs benefitting our school leaders. Check out all our partners on our website <https://regions.acsa.org/6/acsa-region-6-partners/>

We would like to welcome a new diamond partner Learning Genie. Read all about them below.



PRACTICAL AI FOR FUTURE-READY CLASSROOMS

Learning Genie helps school and district leaders advance AI literacy, student engagement, and *Portrait of a Graduate* goals through practical, classroom-ready curriculum design.

Create cross-disciplinary units, performance-based assessments, and differentiated learning experiences in minutes-while **reducing teacher planning time.**



AI-POWERED CURRICULUM & UNIT DESIGN

Create standards-aligned units and lessons in minutes with the power of AI



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE ALIGNMENT

Design learning experiences that build future-ready skills and competencies



STUDENT VOICE & ENGAGEMENT

Inspire deeper learning through choice, relevance, and opportunities for student voice



PERFORMANCE-BASED ASSESSMENTS

Build authentic tasks that measure what matters most



SAVES TEACHERS VALUABLE PLANNING TIME

Streamline planning, differentiate with ease, and focus more on students

GET FREE ACCESS TO
CURRICULUM GENIE!



Scan to Get Started!

curriculumgenie.learninggenie.com

Proud to support ACSA Region 6 leaders in building equitable, innovative, and future-ready schools

ACSA Region 6 Partners 2025-2026



[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA website](#)
[Region 6 website](#)

Region 6 Leadership

President: Lorianne Ventura
 President-Elect: Christina Filios
 Past President: Matt Chamberlain
 VP, Staff Development: Hong Nguyen
 VP, Programs: Paulette Smith
 VP, Legislative Action: Efa Huckaby
 VP, Membership: Erin Roberts
 Secretary: Valerie Nebo

Region 6 Staff

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director
[Steve Collins](#), Associate Director

Treasurer: Suzy Chan
Equity Chair: Hong Nguyen
Communication Chair: Pam VandeKamp
ACSA Board Director: Raul Zamora
At-Large Representatives: Nia Rashidchi,
Deb Brill, Mikey McKelvey

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.

ACSA Region 6 | 77 Santa Barbara Road | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 US

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