



# OCHO Newsletter

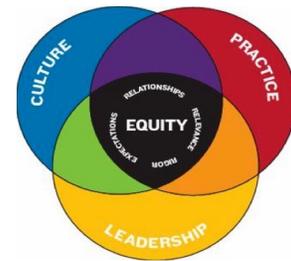
**Issue #3 February 2019**

## Executive Board Updates

### President's Message-

2018 was a fabulous year of ACSA! Thank you for being a member of our professional organization and for your support of our public schools. I am truly honored for the opportunity to serve as Region 8's president and hope that you will be attending one of our many remaining events or activities in 2019.

During the Region 8 retreat in July's, the board developed goals and an **action plan for the year**. Being half way through this ACSA year, I wanted to share the actions that have been taken toward reaching the goals set forth. This year's goals have three focus areas shown below and actions taken to support the goal are reported under each area of focus:



### Organization Development & Sustainability

- Two meetings have been held to support Charter Presidents in addition to our Executive Director, Pat Einfalt's availability to meet with Charter Presidents at their request throughout the year. Support was provided at the July 2018 retreat and the mid-year check in which took place in December 2018.
- At the retreat, each member developed an individual equity goal that they are asked to measure and reflect upon personally during the Leadership Forums in October, January and May. Space and time for individual reflection, learning, discussion and monitoring for one's personal goal progress is provided.

### Membership Development & Support

- Charter Action Plans with Equity Goal have been collected from 16 of 20 charters.
- Regional mentoring has increased. There are currently 6 active mentoring matches and mentors prepared to receive protégés.
- Two Leadership Forums have been held that focused on Equity and the foundational role of inequity in systems norms and policies that require critical analysis.

- Updated email lists by charter have provided direct invitations to events for members.

## Outreach and Sustainability

- One membership event has occurred and another event is planned for April.
- Plans for Legislative Action are currently being developed.
- Leadership Assemblies & meeting agendas are shared prior to events using the updated email list serve.
- Invitations are sent approx. 1 month prior to events such as Leadership Assembly where PD occurs.

~Spring is just around the corner and I wish you joy, peace and energy through these last days of winter. It would be a pleasure to see you at one of our many upcoming events.

In service to public schools,  
**Joann Vaars**

### **Upcoming Events:**

**April 7 & 8** Legislative Action Day

**April 18** Leadership Forum- All invited

**April 28** Professional Learning & Social Event at Capitol Club

**May 7** Women's Leadership Breakfast

**May 10** Regional Awards Celebration

## President-Elect- Dawnel Sonntag

I am deeply honored to have been appointed President-Elect by the Region 8 Executive Board at the board meeting on February 7. I promise I will serve with honor and integrity, keeping my focus on equity for ALL students.

In preparation for next year, we have started to look for members to fill Council and Committee positions that will be opening in the fall. Here is the list of positions available:

- Executive Board: Legislative Policy
- Council: Adult Education
- Council: Classified Educational Leaders
- Council: Student Services and Special Education
- Council: Elementary Education
- Committee: Equity, Achievement, and Diversity
- Committee: Co-Administrator

If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact me at [thesonntags@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thesonntags@sbcglobal.net).

## ACSA State Board of Directors Report- Juan Cruz

This issue's **ACSA State Board Report** contains many important topics focusing on the Priority Areas of **ACSA's 2019-2020 One Voice for Students Legislative Platform**. Priorities include: Accountability, Early Childhood Education, Mental Health, Special Education, Charter Schools, Educator Effectiveness, Retirement, Safe & Healthy Schools, School Facilities, School Finance and an update on the Strategic Plan. Be informed of these topics by clicking [HERE!](#)

## Legislative Action- Michael Gallager

**ACSA's annual Legislative Action Day is April 7 and 8 in Sacramento.** Legislative Action Day is a wonderful opportunity to come together with our region's and state's educational leaders to meet our local

wonderful opportunity to come together with our region's and state's educational leaders to meet our local legislators in the State Capitol and to advocate for public education. We're fortunate in Santa Clara County that our legislators want to hear from us and value our stories and perspectives as they create policy.

No experience is necessary! We'll ease you into the process so that everyone has an opportunity to comfortably participate. Also, it's important to remember that this activity is considered "advocacy" as opposed to political activity.

**Here are the details:**

**April 7:** Meetings at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento begin at 2:00 Dinner with together with our Region 8 contingent at 5:30 provided by Region 8.

**April 8:** Meetings with State legislators in the state Capitol. We'll provide lunch on April 8.

**Hotel:** We will reimburse at the double occupancy rate, so either plan to have a roommate, or we'll reimburse you for half of the cost of the room.

**Registration:** Complete this google form to request registration:

**[Region 8 Leg Action Day Registration Form](#)**

If this link doesn't work, you can type in this url: <https://goo.gl/forms/CywaDDJnI7HADTFP2>

Once your registration is received by ACSA, you will receive a confirmation email with hotel reservation information. Hotels fill up quickly, so I encourage you to complete your hotel registration promptly.

Questions? Let me know. I hope to see a large, energized group of Santa Clara County educational leader in Sacramento April 7 and 8.

### **Membership- Jeff Bowman**

Our Region 8 has a current membership of 924 which includes our retirees; our regular membership is at 732. As we look forward, it will be important to keep our voice strong in Region 8 and within ACSA as a whole by maintaining and hopefully growing our membership.

For our members that are retiring this year, please understand that you can continue your connection with ACSA by joining the Region 8 Retiree Chapter. Contact Maxine Amundson, membership at [drmamaxa@comcast.net](mailto:drmamaxa@comcast.net). Retirees meet quarterly, and this provides a venue to share fellowship and talents in your new life path.

Keep your membership information updated by creating and utilizing your ACSA account: <https://www.acsa.org>

### **Programs- Dawnel Sontag and Andrew Derrick**

We'd like to thank all of those who attended our Leadership Forum on February 7! All attendees enjoyed dinner and networking, and our series speaker, Milton Reynolds, actively engaged us in learning to help us break the cycle of racism and inequity.

We are also excited about our joint networking event with Membership! Due to schedule conflicts, the date for this has changed to April 23 at the Capitol Club, where we will learn from each other and share best practices; look for more information about this event soon.

Finally, we are thrilled to be working with Awards to plan our ACSA Region 8 Leadership Awards night on Friday, May 10, at the Corinthian Ballroom, where we will celebrate the contributions of many outstanding educators. We hope you join us for these fun events!

### **Awards- Alyssa Lynch and Mala Ahuja**

ACSA is the largest Association for California School Administrators. There are so many benefits to being an ACSA member, but one of the most memorable can be for an awardee.

Each year, hundreds of administrators in region 8 work long days, nights and weekends for our students in Santa Clara County. In the early Fall, we put out a call for nominations to recognize as many of our local administrators as possible. There are over 21 categories for school administrators and additional categories for retirees, business partners and a student that has overcome obstacles showing courage and resilience.

Please join us May 10th from 5:00 - 10:00 pm at the Corinthian Ballroom in downtown San Jose. to recognize our local awardees. Register at **[ACSA Awards Dinner Registration](#)**  
Congratulations to all awardees, thank you for your dedication!

- Superintendent: Mariann Engle
- Secondary Principal: Sonia Flores
- Middle Grades Principal Tracy Leathers
- Elementary Principal: Magdalena Moore
- Central Office Administrator: Rhonda Beasley
- Secondary Co-Administrator: Anna Nguyen
- Elementary Co-Administrator: Jennifer Jasper
- Classified Leader: Denise Mendez
- Confidential Leader: Priscila Caballero
- Personnel/HR Administrator: Paula Boling
- Special Education Administrator: Heath Rocha
- Business Services Administrator: Alvaro Meza
- Student Services Administrator: Joseph M. McCreary Ed.D.
- Curriculum & Instruction: Sandra Yellenberg
- Retired Administrator: Ann Jones
- Every Student Succeeding: Leo Chavez
- Partners in Educational Excellence: MAPin (Alexandra Duran)
- Robert E. Kelly: Sheila McGann-Tiedt

For **guests** checks should be made out to:

Region 8 ACSA

**Send to:**

MetroED

760 Hillsdale Ave.

San Jose, CA. 95136

**Attn:** Alyssa Lynch

### **Women's Leadership Network- Mary Ann Dewan**

Region 8 WLN Presents: Empowering Self, Empowering Others, Tues. May 7 from 7:30 to 9:30 am at the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Join Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools, and Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States, to network with one another and discuss how to unlock greater leadership potential in ourselves and others.

Free for ASCA members plus one guest is complimentary. Non-members \$10. Includes breakfast, networking, and engaging presentations.

For more information, see our flyer: **[Women's Leadership Network Presents](#)**

Register at: **<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acsa-region-8-womens-leadership-network-event-tickets-52287560501>**

### **Communications- Karen Larson**

If you have not seen the Region 8 website's new look, please take a look (**<http://regions.acsa.org/8/>**)!

Thanks to our friends at state ACSA for offering us the opportunity to be one of the first regions to experience the redesign. I hope you agree that the look is fresh, clean and modern – just like Region 8! While you are there, please see if you are on a committee or council that may have old information on your page. Send me updates and I will get it on your page as soon as possible.



## Representing Region 8

Our Region 8 Team at the ACSA Leadership Assembly in Ontario. Pictured (left to right): Michael Gallagher, Joanne Vaars, Juan Cruz, Sheila Walters, Jose Gonzalez and Lisa Ketchum. Not pictured: Pat Einfalt.

---

## Committee/Council Reports

### Career Technical Education- Alyssa Lynch

This has been a very busy year for CTE programs in California. Nation-wide there was an increase of \$70 million dollars in Perkins funds. The dollars will be allocated to all states which will provide a small increase in Perkins funds to California schools.

January 25th all CTEIG applications were due. In March, the SBE will release the CTEIG allocations and formulas. Grant Award notifications should be sent out in May. The Strong Workforce Program (SWP) grant applications was released in mid January and notifications should be sent out in April. SWP funding should be released by mid June. The largest CTE conference Educating for Careers Conference kicks off on March 3 at the Sacramento Convention Center.

### Elementary Education- Kimberly Attell

The Elementary Education Council met at a host school in Newark California. The team discussed Social Emotional Learning and how the use of Mindfulness practices support the learning of all students and staff. The team visited classes where daily mindfulness practices were used. In addition, the council looked at Interim Council President. ACSA update includes reports that Governor Newsome has strong interest in supporting early childhood education. During membership check in, principals discussed the stressor of supporting student regulation in the elementary classroom. Team shared resources and ideas of how to support students and regulation, stay tuned to the Elementary Education Council newsletter coming in the spring for some specific examples.

### Educational Options- Jesse Ramos

On Wednesday, February 13, the Educational Options Council had its second meeting of the 2018-19 school year in Anaheim. Because the Council's Chair, Dr. Milisav Ilic, was unable to attend, Dr. Erin Simon facilitated the meeting.

The group's ACSA representative, Ivan Carillo, introduced Kris Swett who is the Principal of South Valley Continuation School in the Ukiah Unified School District. Ivan invited Mr. Swett to do a presentation on Big Picture Learning an innovative approach that his school is using to engage and teach at-risk students. Students in the program are surveyed to determine their individual learning goals and interests. Then a highly personalized learning plan that includes a career exploration component is developed to support the student's ambitions. Instead of attending regular classes, students work twice a week with a

mentor, who identifies the curriculum they need and provides individualized instruction. According to Mr. Swett, the Stuart Foundation is a big supporter of the interest-based learning approach. The group was very intrigued by Mr. Swett's presentation and had a lot of general questions on its implementation as well how grades and credits are reconciled with a traditional high school system. Because there was not enough time to address all inquiries, Mr. Swett encouraged anyone who would like to learn more about the Big Picture Learning that is happening at South Valley Continuation School to visit the school's website. He also invited people to contact him directly. His contact information is on the school's website.

Following Mr. Swett's presentation, Maria Hwang de Bravo, the Council's Legislative Policy Liaison, presented the latest version of the Ed Options Council's Legislative Proposal. This well-written document was organized into four sections; Intent, Definitions, Policy Requirements, and Funding. Members of the council reviewed each of the parts and shared their ideas for revisions and possible additions to the document. Ms. Hwang de Bravo collected the opinions and promised to share any updates to the text at the next meeting.

The meeting closed with reports from the Staff Liaison, Ivan Carrillo, and the State Liaison, Rafael Plascencia. Both gentlemen mentioned that ACSA is always looking for issues that impact its members and their work. A topic that appears to affect the success of our students is wellness. Under the leadership of Dr. Lisa Gonzalez and others, ACSA created the School Crisis Tool Kit, which is valuable to administrators should a disaster occur. Now to prevent a potential crisis, there is a growing consensus of the need to address the issue of student and staff wellness. The council members agreed that wellness is a growing concern and solving the problem seems to be the logical next step.

After the meeting, Dr. Simon reminded members that the next meeting will be in Sacramento on April 12, 2019.

### **Special Education and Student Services- Rose DuMond**

The Every Child Succeeds (ECC) Symposium was held February 13 - 15, in Anaheim. This year's guest speakers included Brad Cohen, speaking on his own personal account of overcoming the challenges of Tourette's Syndrome, and Actor, Marlee Matlin, who spoke to her own personal challenges as an individual with a hearing impairment to become not only a well known award winning actor but also an advocate for persons with this disability as well as her own charitable work known worldwide. ACSA Region 8 contributed a gift/prize raffled at the annual luncheon.

Each year presentations are made by our Special Education and Student Services colleagues as well as our friends in the legal arena who provide vital and up-to-date information required to do our jobs well. If you have not been to this event or had not had a chance to return make a point of it next year. The ECC Symposium 2020 will be in Palm Desert.

The Santa Clara County Office is conducting a study of the current status of special education services across the county. A task force under the guidance of Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, County Superintendent of Schools, and facilitated by Anna Marie Villalobos in consultation with Total School Solutions has met to review data and discuss specific areas of concern. A survey has been developed to elicit responses from all stakeholders within Districts and includes parents. The results will be reviewed in meetings and recommendations developed for consideration in Spring 2019.

ACSA has gathered a Mental Wellness taskforce which met February 5 and 6 in Sacramento to begin to discuss mental health practices, wellness, mindfulness and social-emotional learning practices in schools and districts in California. By invitation from ACSA President, Holly Edds, a diverse group of members to the task force participated in sharing their personal accounts and successes in their schools and districts, listened to guest speakers as well as began to set a mission for the work of the group in order to support policy development to improve services within education across the State. The next meeting will be March 4 in Sacramento.

---

## Charter Updates

### County Office of Education Administrators Association- Matthew Tinsley

COEAA is gearing up for its busiest month of the year. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be holding our annual Every Student Succeeding breakfast, honoring outstanding students from SCCOE and MetroEd's programs. We will also be recognizing the three SCCOE leaders who have received ACSA Region 8 Administrator of the Year awards. We're also getting excited about our upcoming Chili Cookoff on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, our big social event and scholarship fund raiser, with fliers already posted around the building.

### Oak Grove Management Association- Genvieve Dorsey

Oak Grove Management Association (OGMA) welcomed the district's new school board members with a recognition dinner. This served as a time for Oak Grove leaders and school board members to build relationships and focus on the core values of the district.

The OGMA Equity team is also promoting equity in leadership. They have facilitated equity conversations at two leadership meetings. Leaders discussed racial disparities in school discipline as well as how to improve outreach to parents of color. This work has been supported with a district-wide professional development day where we focused on the work of building on the assets of our English Language Learners while providing robust, respectful, and empowering learning environments.

OGMA's award committee has collected student applications from each school for ACSA's Every Student Succeeding Awards. The committee is currently planning an awards ceremony in March for all nominees. At this ceremony, one student will be awarded the honor of representing Oak Grove as the region's nominee.

### Palo Alto Management Association- Lisa Hickey

The Palo Alto Management Association has begun collaboration with the Don Austin, Superintendent to put forth a new structure for compensation increases for the 2020-21 school year. For 2019-20, PAMA will be included under the Umbrella Clause that follows the teacher union raise for the year. Palo Alto Unified School District is working on launching the PAUSD Promise <https://promise.pausd.org/home> which includes plans for building leadership capacity and includes staff housing.

---

ACSA Region 8 | 16600 Monterey St.,#790, Morgan Hill, Ca. 95037 | [Website](#)

See what's happening on our social sites:

