



**REGION XI WELL REPRESENTED  
IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**  
PAGES 3 & 8



**KINGS CHARTER FALL CONFERENCE  
IS A FIESTA OF INFO, NETWORKING**  
PAGE 20



**DR. CRAIG WHEATON MOUNTS  
CAMPAIGN FOR VICE PRESIDENT**  
PAGE 14

**Special Guest Speakers**

**DEVON MATHIS**

*State Assemblyman, District 26*

**Region Board Meeting**

**November 6**

**WES SMITH**

*State ACSA*

*Executive Director*

**Region Board**

**Meeting**

**March 1**



# REPORTER



ACSARegion11



@acsa\_11



ACSA APP

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS • **REGION XI** • [www.regions.acsa.org/11/](http://www.regions.acsa.org/11/)

## NEW!

We're mailing this hard copy of our newsletter to you, in addition to all the digital delivery methods we've used in the past. Let us know what you think.

[kathleen.forsythe@sbcsbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleen.forsythe@sbcsbcglobal.net)

## Meet your President ... Dr. Donya Wheeler

**What is your training, teaching and administrative experience?**

I graduated from Pepperdine University with a Bachelor's Degree in Advertising. My original career goal was to work for an advertising agency in the marketing division. During college, I had the opportunity to tutor students through America Reads where I discovered my passion for teaching. Upon graduating from Pepperdine, I attended California State University San Marcos to obtain my Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. I taught various elementary and middle school grades. I then received my Master's Degree in Curriculum & Instruction and Doctorate Degree in Administrative Leadership for Teaching & Learning. While working through the Doctorate Program, I advanced from elementary Assistant Principal to Principal to the district office, where I started my fourth year as Deputy Superintendent.

**What free-time activity do you enjoy most?**

I enjoy watching my three children participate in various sports and activities including water polo, swimming, rodeo, football, and soccer. Traveling to new places is also a highlight, as it is special to be able to provide these experiences for my children. It also brings me great pleasure to manage my fantasy football leagues! It is a great escape from the every day stresses.

Donya/10



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# Membership Scoreboard

Remember, membership is everyone's business.  
Member-to-member recruitment ensures that ACSA remains the authoritative advocate for all matters pertaining to education and its leaders.

**Each One ... Reach One**

**Recruitment Tip:**

**Contact administrators new to the profession or new to the area**

## Welcome New Members

### East Kern Charter

#### **Carmen Madrigal**

Assistant Principal  
Rosemont Elementary

**Recruited by: Nino Torres**

### Inyo/Kern Charter

#### **Emily T. Bautista**

Assistant Principal  
Youthbuild Charter

**Recruited by: Rodolfo Cuevas**

### Kings Charter

#### **Erin Brewer**

HR Director, Lemoore High

**Recruited by: Debbi Muro**

#### **Marcelo Huizar**

Vice Principal, Corcoran

**Recruited by: David Whitmore**

### Tulare Charter

#### **Debrah Cruz**

Program Manager  
Visalia Unified School District

**Recruited by: Kim Paz**

#### **Angela Dillon**

Special Ed Director  
Visalia Unified School District

**Recruited by: Kim Paz**

#### **Ben Dhillon,**

Director of Student Services  
Southern Kern USD

**Recruited by: Melanie Stringer**

#### **Brooke Finley**

Program Manager Special Ed  
Visalia Unified School District

**Recruited by: Kim Paz**

#### **Sonia Malingen**

Program Manager  
Visalia Unified School District

**Recruited by: Kim Paz**

#### **Susanne McFadden**

Program Manager Special Ed  
Visalia Unified School District

**Recruited by: Kim Paz**

#### **Heather Rodriguez**

Special Ed. Director, Burton

**Recruited by: Anthony Martin**

#### **Kelli Ruby**

Principal, Oak Valley

**Recruited by: Paz Marroquin**

### West Kern Charter

#### **Kelley Miller**

Superintendent, Norris Elem.

**Recruited by: Blanca Cavazos**

#### **Justin Thompson**

Special Ed. Director, Kern COE

**Recruited by: Julianna Gaines**

#### **Michelle L. Roy**

Student, Fruitvale ESD

**Recruited by: Carl Olson**

#### **Kim Kissack-Villani**

Sup./Principal, South Fork Elem.

**Recruited by: Heather Richter**

Charter	Sept. 30, 2016	Sept. 30, 2017	+/-
East Kern	81	82	+1
Inyo/Mono	23	29	+6
Kings	117	120	+3
Tulare	465	471	+6
West Kern	334	333	-1
CSUB Student	14	15	+1
Unassigned	2	2	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>+16</b>

Did You Know?

### ACSA Mentor Program

## Making qualified leaders effective

The ACSA Mentor Program links an educational leader, new to his or her position, with an experienced, skilled, dedicated, and confidential mentor. It is a relationship builder based on trust, confidence, and expert guidance. Like so many other professions, educational leaders need someone that they can call upon to help them through the trials and tribulations of their first and second year in a new position. This relationship is not geared around supervision or evaluation, but rather collegiality, support, and collaboration.

To become a Protege or Mentor, go to [acsa.org](http://acsa.org), click on Member Services, then Mentor Program

See Mentor/16

### AN ACSA REGION XI PUBLICATION

**Dr. Donya Wheeler, President**

**David Tonini, Executive Director**

**Kathy Forsythe, Director of Communications**

1611 W. Laurel Ave., Visalia, CA 93277

(559) 627-3619

Email: [kathleen.forsythe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kathleen.forsythe@sbcglobal.net)

*"Serving Kern, Kings, Inyo, Mono and Tulare Counties"*



# President's Message

## Greetings Region XI!

For each newsletter, it is important that we reflect on how our region is progressing on

the goals we established at our region planning retreat which are aligned to ACSA's strategic plan.

## Goal 1:

***We will increase Region XI involvement with state and local legislation.***

We certainly have taken action steps to meet this goal in just the first few months of the year. A legislative action coordinator was established for each charter. Dr. Craig Wheaton, Region XI Vice President for Legislative Action, has been in

communication with each coordinator to focus on charter and region legislative activities. Region IX has secured both Assemblyman Devon Mathis and Marshall Tuck to attend and present at upcoming region meetings. Region XI had a large presence at the recent National Association of School Superintendents (NASS) Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. Both Dr. Wheaton and I attended alongside superintendents from across the nation to advocate on behalf of our region's students. We met with Congressman Devin Nunes and Senator Dianne Feinstein's staff to discuss education priorities, making the following recommendations:

- 1) Congress should fully fund the Every Student Succeeds Act's programs, with a focus on the law's major formula programs and other initiatives designed to promote educational equality.

See Wheeler/4



ACSA and Region XI legends David Itzenhauser and Dick Schlagel celebrated their 90th birthdays with Region XI Executive Director David Tonini recently.

## *A message from Dick ...*

*"I want to once again express my sincere thanks and very deep appreciation to Region XI ACSA for the very generous financial gift for a cruise. 26 of us enjoyed a fantastic cruise the last week of June. 22 were my family members. May each of you have an incredible 2017-2018 school year."*

**Dick Schlagel**



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Brandman University, a part of the Chapman University System, is a private, nonprofit institution accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC) that offers more than 80 academic programs both online and at more than 25 campuses throughout California and Washington. Not all programs are available at all locations. Program availability is subject to change.



# Region XI 2017-2018 Executive Board



Left to right: Kings Charter President Rodney Brumit, Kings County Superintendent of Schools Tim Bowers, and Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction Marshall Tuck.

## Kings Charter gets visits from Tuck, Thurmond

In August, Kings Charter hosted State School Superintendent Candidate Marshall Tuck at Lemoore High School for a meet and greet. He spoke to the crowd of a little less than 100 for over an hour, discussing his plans to improve education. Kings County Superintendent Tim Bowers helped plan the event and introduced Marshall, the creator and former superintendent of Green Dot Schools.

In September, California State Assemblyman Tony Thurmond, also a candidate for State School Superintendent of Public Instruction, visited Kings County, speaking to teachers and administrators.



Left to right: Bowers, Candidate for State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond, and Brumit.



**Dr. Donya Wheeler**  
*President*



**Lisa Horne**  
*President-Elect*



**Matt Diggle**  
*Vice President*



**Dr. Craig Wheaton**  
*Vice-President  
Legislative Action*



**Michele Borges**  
*Secretary*



**Regina Green**  
*Treasurer*



**David Bowling**  
*Past-President*



**Terry Wolfe**  
*Lead Ambassador*



**David Tonini**  
*Executive Director*



**Kathy Forsythe**  
*Director of  
Communications*

## Wheeler

Continued from page 3

- 2) Congress must continue to support the E-rate program, which is a critical tool for connecting schools to affordable broadband.
- 3) Congress must strengthen the Higher Education Act's focus on educator recruitment, preparation, induction and other longer-term support systems.

## Goal 2:

***We will increase support from top administrators to build meaningful involvement for members and districts.***

Region XI is hosting various academies to provide high quality professional development to our members. These academies include the Curriculum & Instruction Leaders Academy in Visalia, the Equity Leaders Academy, the Principals Academy, and the Special Education Academy in Bakersfield. Kings and Tulare Charters are also hosting Fall conferences, offering networking and professional development opportunities for their local administrators.

## Goal 3:

***We will increase accessibility of information and visibility of ACSA brand to all members.***

Under the leadership of Kathy Forsythe, Region XI Director of Communications, we have vastly improved our region's social media presence. Kathy is using Facebook to publicize various activities occurring throughout the region. Region leaders were provided a tutorial on how to navigate the ACSA app. Upcoming board meetings will provide leaders with information on how to use Twitter and other tools to share the positive work occurring throughout the region. Our region utilized the WebEx online meeting platform for the first time for our September board meeting to bring members together throughout the region which we plan to continue for upcoming board meetings.

On behalf of the region's executive board and myself, we look forward to making continued progress in meeting our region goals, prioritizing equity for the students in which we serve.

**Dr. Donya Wheeler**, *President, ACSA Region XI*  
[dwheeler@exeter.k12.ca.us](mailto:dwheeler@exeter.k12.ca.us), 559.592.9421, ext. 9102





## Comments from your Executive Director

I would imagine that many of you are reading a hard copy of the Region's Fall Newsletter. At the June meeting, the executive board voted to send a

hard copy of the newsletter to members. Let us know if you want us to continue sending you a hard copy. We will continue to email you a copy and you will continue to be able to download it from the ACSA APP, our website, Facebook or the Google Drive.

If you haven't already, go to the APP store and download the ACSA APP. Go to Settings, choose to follow Region 11 and to allow notifications, so can get alerts of upcoming events, and important legislation that needs a letter of support or

concern. The APP also gives you quick access to the State and Region Website, Facebook and Twitter.

A major effort throughout the region is to make connections with Legislators and Representatives in Congress. Legislators are being invited to charter and region meetings, as well as visits to schools and districts. The hope is that strong relationships will be developed that will result in our members being the go-to people before legislators vote on an education-related bill or proposing a bill related to education.

The Tulare/Kings Associate/Student ACSA Charter will soon become a reality thanks to the hard work of Amanda Richard, Rory Collinwood, Nancy Nauman, Karen Ruiz, and the uni-

See Tonini/6

## Inyo/Mono event features Eastin as guest speaker

Delaine Easton's presentation was the highlight of the Inyo/Mono Administrative

Retreat. The two-day event, attended by about 35 administrators from the two counties, was held at Mammoth Lakes in early August. Eastin is a candidate for Governor of California in the 2018 race. She has held positions in the California State Assembly, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, professor and businesswoman.



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# Region XI 2017-2018 Council Reps



Did You Know?

## Dr. Kate Kinsella

Dr. Kate Kinsella will be featured at an institute presented by the California ASCD and the Tulare County Office of Education from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at the Tulare County Office of Education.

Although classroom teachers and instructional coaches may have studied the new California ELD standards and perused resources within the appendices, many remain significantly challenged to design and implement effective lessons that bolster academic speaking and listening competencies within either a designated or integrated ELD course of study.

Drawing from research and extensive classroom practice, Dr. Kinsella will focus on a core set of potent instructional routines appropriate for any ELD curriculum, content area, or grade level. Participants, ideally in site-based teams, will leave with extensive practical print and digital resources to support lesson delivery, professional development, and coaching initiatives.

For more information and to register, go to [cascd.org](http://cascd.org).



**John Werner**  
*Adult Education*



**Robert Gröeber**  
*Business Services*



**Dr. Marie Pinto**  
*Career Technical Ed*



**Lori Blodorn**  
*Classified Ed Leaders*



**Dr. Valerie Park**  
*Curriculum, Instruction, & Accountability*



**Melissa Christman**  
*Elementary Education*



**Philip Pierschbacher**  
*Human Resources*



**Kirsti Smith**  
*Middle Grades Ed*



**Dr. Lucy Van Scyoc**  
*Secondary Education*



**Lisa Horne**  
*Student Services/  
Special Education*



**Tom Addington**  
*Superintendency*

## Want to become more involved in ACSA?

ACSA's effectiveness in shaping education policy at both the state and federal level lies in its grassroots strength. To that end, ACSA is structured with issue-focused committees and job-alike councils made up of education leaders. The following committee/councils will have open positions next year:

- Business Services Council

- Human Resources Council
- Member Services Council
- Retirement Committee

Applications will be available in the spring. Go to <https://www.acsa.org/About-Us> to view descriptions of each of council/committee and contact information if you would like to learn more.

Did You Know?

## Tonini

Continued from page 5

versity stakeholders. A spring event is being planned and officers are being determined.

At the State Leadership Assembly we had ten voting members, with the potential of growing one more. Craig Wheaton is a candidate for Vice President of ACSA. At the ACSA Leadership Summit in November we will be hosting a reception to introduce him to members.

As we come to grips with the horrific event in Las Vegas, we are challenged to come up with hopeful ideas to prevent such an event from happening again. One thought out of many is perhaps we need to focus more on the emotional intelligence of our students. Intelligent students without character and emotional intelligence are a danger to all. Counselors, social workers, school nurses, and probation officers in schools need to be a priority. Your thoughts?

**David Tonini**, Executive Director, ACSA Region 11  
[davidto02@comcast.net](mailto:davidto02@comcast.net), 559-280-6228



# Region XI 2017-2018 Committee Reps



**Dr. Fernie Maroquin**  
CAPEA



**Leiann Scott**  
Co-Administration



**Anjelica Zermeno**  
Education Options



**Regina Green**  
Equity, Achievement  
& Diversity



**David Bowling**  
Leadership Development



**Jose Morales**  
Legislative Policy



**Dr. Guadalupe Solis**  
Member Services



**David Francis**  
Retirement



**Steve Tsuboi**  
Small School District



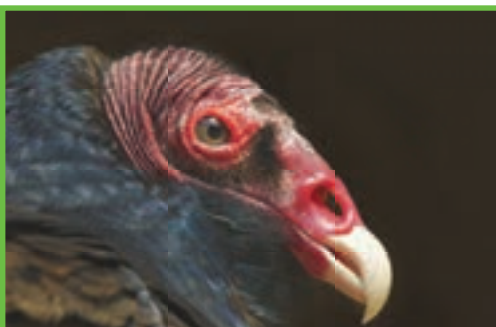
**Diane Cox**  
Urban Education

## Kings Charter members network at ACSAfest

Kings Charter kicked off the 2017-2018 year with ACSAfest, a networking social that included members and potential members. The event was held at Dowd's Cabana in Hanford on Monday, Aug. 21.



Left to right: Lance Dowd, Learning Director, Sierra Pacific High School; Tim Bowers, Kings County Superintendent; and Freddy Guerrero, Principal, Reef Sunset Middle School



## Bring your class to CALM

CALM hosts more than 20,000 students, educators and parents who visit the zoo on organized field trips every year. A discounted rate for school groups is \$4 per child and \$6 per adult. These fees include zoo admission, a wildlife program with a CALM staff and a reserved pavilion area for lunch or snack.

An adult to student ratio of 1:10 is required for students in grades 1-6, and 1:5 for kindergarten or pre-school.

To schedule a field trip, or for more information, please contact Jordan Reed at **661-871-1883** or email [joreed@kern.org](mailto:joreed@kern.org).



[www.CALMzoo.org](http://www.CALMzoo.org)

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# Region XI Legislators

## Assembly Members

### DISTRICT 23

#### **Jim Patterson**

*Republican*

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0023

Room 3132

916.319.2023

DISTRICT OFFICE:

6245 N. Fresno St.

Fresno, CA 93710

559.446.2029

### DISTRICT 26

#### **Devon Mathis**

*Republican*

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA

94249-0026

Room 2111

916.319.2026

DISTRICT OFFICE:

100 W. Willow Plaza, Ste. 405

Visalia, CA. 93291

559.636.3440

### DISTRICT 32

#### **Rudy Salas**

*Democrat*

CAPITOL OFFICE:

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA

94249-0032

Room 4016

916.319.2032

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1430 Truxtun, Ste. 803

Bakersfield, CA 93301

661.335.0302

113 Court, Ste. 201

Hanford, CA 93230

559.585.7170



# Advocate!

## Region XI advocates in Washington, DC

Terri Rufert, Donya Wheeler, and I represented Region XI at the National Association of School Superintendents' Leadership and Advocacy Conference (NASS) on October 2 and 3. Many ACSA members may not know that ACSA is the parent company of NASS and this has expanded ACSA's influence to a national level. The NASS advocacy day was a great example of that national influence.

We delivered a unified voice on several important federal issues as we visited our congressional representatives. This was an important time to have our voices heard as congress is considering appropriation levels for many of our valued programs:

- Title 1
- Title II • CTE (Perkins)
- E-RATE, and
- Higher Education Act's focus on teacher preparation

Personal stories about how federal funding impacts the lives of students makes a powerful impact on legislators. This was clear as we met with Senator Feinstein and Senator Harris' educational staff. Terri, Donya, and I shared several stories of the positive impact of federal funding on our local students with

Congressman Devin Nunes and his staff. We invited the Congressman and staff to visit schools in the region and hope to have this scheduled soon.

In addition to visiting our representatives, we were able to sit in on a Senate Education Committee hearing regarding the effectiveness of ESSA State Plan approval process. The committee was chaired by Senator Alexander with testimony by representatives from several states, including Tennessee, Louisiana, and New Mexico. It was quite impressive to see policy development in progress!

This experience reinforced the importance of having practical, experienced voices from the field at the table when legislators are developing educational policy. This particularly applies to our state level. I challenge all of you to take a little time out of your busy day to advocate for your students as policies are being discussed in Sacramento or Washington!

#### **Craig Wheaton**

*Vice President for Legislative Action*

*ACSA Region 11*

[craigw@tcoe.org](mailto:craigw@tcoe.org), 559.679.9996

### DISTRICT 34

#### **Vince Fong**

*Republican*

CAPITOL OFFICE:

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Sacramento, CA 94249-0034

Room 4144 • 916.319.2034

DISTRICT OFFICE:

4550 California Ave., Ste. 740

Bakersfield, CA 93309

661.395.2995

## Senate Members

### DISTRICT 14

#### **Andy Vidak**

*Republican*

CAPITOL OFFICE:

State Capitol, Room 3082

Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

916.651.4014

DISTRICT OFFICES:

1201 E. California Ave., Ste. A

Bakersfield, CA 93307

661.395.2620

2550 Mariposa Mall, Ste. 2016

Fresno, CA 93721

559.264.3070

113 Court Street, Ste. 205

Hanford CA 93230

559.585.7161

### DISTRICT 16

#### **Jean Fuller**

*Republican*

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State Capitol, Room 4048

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916.651.4016

DISTRICT OFFICES:

5701 Truxtun, Ste. 150

Bakersfield, CA 93309

661.323.0443

7248 Joshua Lane, Ste. B

Yucca Valley, CA 92284

760.228.3136



# Region XI State Reps



**Terri Rupert**  
State Vice President  
for Legislative Action



**Dr. Don Clark**  
State President  
Small Schools Committee



**Scott Chennault**  
State President-Elect  
Student Services / Special  
Education Council



**Dr. Blanca G. Cavazos**  
State Director



**Mike Tsuboi**  
State President-Elect  
Middle Grades Education  
Council & State CIF Rep



**Jeanette McDonald**  
State President  
Classified Education Leaders  
Council

## Professional Development



## Elevate your potential with professional learning opportunities from ACSA

For nearly 50 years, ACSA has been the leader in building capacity to create lasting changes to benefit our schools, communities, families, and students. Our expertise extends to both districts and individuals in critical areas including leadership, productivity, and equity. Over our history, more than 150,000 education professionals have benefited from growing their skills through ACSA. Thank you for being advocates of students and champions of education. We truly appreciate your commitment to strengthening your skills and helping to achieve greatness in our schools. The reality is that the needs of education change all the time, that is why we've crafted the professional learning solutions outlined in ACSA's Professional Learning Catalog. So, whether you need to engage and inspire your team, increase personal effectiveness, create a culture of effectiveness, increase clarity or credibility, download ACSA's Professional Learning Catalog now at [www.acsa.org/professionallearning](http://www.acsa.org/professionallearning).

— **Margaret Arthofer**, ACSA Senior Director of Educational Services

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VC 28442 (07/2017) J102150 EE



# HR Workshop

ACSA's Educational Services Department has designed a workshop for administrators with Human Resources responsibilities, Classified Managers and other support staff. Participants new to Human Resources or with experience in Human Resources will benefit from the comprehensive overview of the myriad tasks and responsibilities. The presentation will include procedures related to Human Resources and a Human Resources self assessment instrument.

- Identify and understand the complexities of HR administration
- Describe the functions performed by the HR Office
- Identify the various public stakeholders with whom the HR Office must interact and what results may be expected from those interactions
- Become familiar with recent legislative and case law changes
- Identify and understand HR procedures and the monitoring of critical timelines

## Remaining dates:

- Jan. 19 - Rohnert Park
- Jan. 31 - San Rafael
- Feb. 20 - Lemon Grove

**Information:** Rhonda Morgan at 800.608.ACSA or by email at [rmorgan@acsa.org](mailto:rmorgan@acsa.org).  
**Register:** <http://www.cvent.com/d/y5qch4>.

Did You Know?

## NOVEMBER 2017

- 2 3-DAY EVENT
- 3 Leadership Summit
- 4 San Jose McEnergy Convention Center
- 9 8:00 AM
- Region XI Board Meeting
- Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 14 5:00 PM
- Tulare Charter Winter Conference
- Visalia Marriott at the Convention Center
- 17 7:00 AM
- Kings Charter Board Meeting
- Brandman University, Hanford
- 17 7:00 AM
- Tulare Charter Board Meeting
- Apple Annie's, Tulare

- 27 5:30 PM
- East Kern Charter Meeting/Dinner
- Mojave

## DECEMBER 2017

- 7 7:00 AM
- West Kern Charter Board Meeting
- Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 7 8:00 AM
- Region XI Board Meeting
- Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 8 7:00 AM
- Kings Charter Board Meeting
- Brandman University, Hanford
- 11 5:00 PM
- Inyo/Mono Charter Board Meeting
- Mammoth Lakes

## JANUARY 2018

- 4 8:00 AM
- Region XI Board Meeting
- Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 11 7:00 AM
- West Kern Charter Board Meeting
- Hodel's Country Dining, Bakersfield
- 12 7:00 AM
- Tulare Charter Board Meeting
- Apple Annie's, Tulare
- 22 5:30 PM
- East Kern Charter Meeting/Dinner
- Tehachapi

## Donya

Continued from page 1

### Where are you most comfortable?

I am most comfortable spending time at home and cooking on our Sunday Fundays.

### What is the best advice you have given to others?

Fail Forward. I have learned, and continue to learn, that failure provides personal and professional growth. Failure should not be perceived as a set back but as a means to open up another opportunity. People are afraid of that term as it could be interpreted as unsuccessful. Self reflection is critical during times of failure. It is a time to regroup and refocus in order to achieve even greater accomplishments. I recently viewed a video that sums this up amazingly well! <https://www.facebook.com/goalcast/videos/1585909778152873/>

### What is the most rewarding part of being Deputy Superintendent at Exeter Unified?

The most rewarding aspect of my position is the connection with principals, teachers, parents, and even more importantly, students. I am fortunate that I am partnered with a Superintendent who encourages my presence in the classroom. This is not always feasible or a reality in other districts. I set aside one day per month to visit every single classroom in the district which means I am in each classroom 10 times per year to connect with students and staff. These experiences are invaluable and help me keep a pulse on the needs of our district.

### What do you feel are the major characteristics of an effective leader?

Honest, Approachable, and Committed. The ability to have honest and sometimes fierce conversations is key for effective leadership. I learned this as a site administrator. Losing sleep was common in those days as it was sometimes very hard to speak the truth in extremely difficult situations, however it became extremely apparent to me that through these conversations, the result was trust and respect. Being approachable is also critical as every good leader and manager must be able to relate and guide the organization through sometimes difficult times with compassion, integrity, and even humor. Demonstrating a commitment to the district's mission, vision, and goals is also essential, since there are many distractors that could get a leader off course. If the leader's focus is on thee right areas, the right work will be done.

### Any special plans for Region XI this year?

Our executive board plans for Region XI to be a front runner in the state through advocacy and legislative action. Our charters and region are extremely focused on connecting with local and state legislatures to ensure our students throughout our five regions are adequately represented.

### What 3 words would your best friend use to describe you?

She would probably laugh at this question being we have been best friends since seventh grade and there are many words she could use, but I am not sure I should mention them here. She would describe me as driven, loyal, and a foodie. 🍕



# Deadline nears for Admin of the Year, Every Student Succeeding awards

One of ACSA's priorities is to ensure that school leaders are recognized for their excellence. Through our annual awards program we honor administrators and community members for their achievements and their dedication to public education. Each year, the association honors a number of individuals through the Administrator of the Year awards in 21 job-alike categories, as well as through five special awards. More about the program can be found at the State Awards Program homepage, <https://www.acsa.org/About-Us/Awards-Program>. Region awards are announced in January, with recipients honored at the May Awards Presentation. Statewide recipients are announced at the end of March and honored at the Leadership Summit in November.

## 2018 Awards Overview

The 2018 ACSA Award Program is now open for nominations. Watch a short demo, <https://www.screencast.com/t/Q8kgDKdghzGM>, of the new online platform to find out how you can nominate your colleagues, or read frequently asked questions, [https://www.acsa.org/application/files/2015/0646/7084/Awards\\_FAQs.pdf](https://www.acsa.org/application/files/2015/0646/7084/Awards_FAQs.pdf). Access the awards nomination portal at [acs.aawardsprogram.com](https://www.acsa.org/About-Us/Awards-Program).

The deadline for award nominations to be submitted to your region leadership is January 12, 2018. Each nomination needs to be completely filled out, with an additional 3-5 tweets from district staff about the nominee.

Submit nominations to your charter president by November 17, 2017, or contact your charter president with any questions about submitting nomination forms.

Questions? Contact Lisa Horne by email at [lisa.horne@kingscoe.org](mailto:lisa.horne@kingscoe.org) or by phone at 559-362-3485.

## Every Student Succeeding

ACSA's Every Student Succeeding (ESS) program honors students who exceed our expectations and the educators who support them along the way. We are proud to highlight these young men and women who have overcome great obstacles to succeed. They face life's challenges head on. Their stories are remarkable and their futures are bright.

Submit ESS nominations to your charter president by December 31, 2017, or contact your charter president with any questions about submitting student nominees for ESS. The current year ESS recipients will be recognized at the state Leadership Summit, November 2017 in San Jose.

For more information on the ESS program, including the nomination form, visit the state Awards Program website at <https://www.acsa.org/About-Us/Awards-Program>.

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# Leadership Assembly focuses on candidate endorsement in gubernatorial and SPI races

During the ACSA Leadership Assembly held in Los Angeles on Thursday, Oct. 12, ACSA President Lisa Gonzalez held a “fireside chat” with State Superin-

tendent of Public Instruction (SPI) candidates Marshall Tuck (<https://marshalltuck.com/about-marshall/>) and Tony Thurmond (<https://a15.asmdc.org/biography>). Delegates submitted questions electronically and Lisa addressed them to each candidate. Among the array of topics discussed were questions about their reasons for seeking the office, addressing pension costs, AB 1220, education funding, and why they are the right person for the job. While the conversation was casual in nature, the candidates' responses provided a glimpse into their education priorities.

Edgar Zazueta, State ACSA Senior Director of Policy and Governmental Relations, detailed the process for endorsing candidates for the offices of Governor and SPI, which are the priorities at the moment. After receiving responses to a candidate questionnaire, the Governmental Relations staff will provide the information to the interview panel formed by members of the Board of Directors. The panel will interview the candidates in early December. The panel's recommendations for endorsement will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval. Formal endorsement of the finalists is anticipated in early 2018. Regions are encouraged to invite candidates to visit and have conversations with



State President Lisa Gonzalez discussed the candidacies of Marshall Tuck and Tony Thurmond with each of them during the State Leadership Assembly in early October.

members at the local level. The regional lists will give a perspective to ACSA representatives that they can convey to the Board of Directors. At this time, the focus is on the SPI race since the majority of the gubernatorial candidates have already addressed the Assembly. While members of the Board of Directors have voice in the selection, no one member dictates the final endorsement. The charters and regions speak with one voice regarding the candidates who receive the official endorsement. While members may individually support one candidate over another, as an organization, we speak with one voice.

**Dr. Blanca Cavazos**

*State Director, ACSA Region XI*

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