

Region XI members join with NASS for DC lobbying



Region XI members Jose Morales, second from left, and Terri Rufert, second from right, meet with Devin Nunes' staff during the ACSA-National Association of School Superintendent's Federal Advocacy Day.

Region XI members were among the more than two dozen ACSA members who led a contingent of nationwide educators to Washington, D.C. in September for the third annual ACSA-National Association of School Superintendent's Federal Advocacy Day. Representing Region XI were Jose Morales, Director of Migrant Education with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office, and Terri Rufert, Superintendent of Sundale Union Elementary School in Tulare and State ACSA Vice President for Legislative Action.

"It is always amazing to me that no matter which state administrators come from, we all have the same issues and desires for our students," said Rufert. "That makes advocating for them in Washington, D.C. so much more powerful; we truly have one voice for our nation's students."

"The face of public education in the United States is changing every day and California is always the leader in student advocacy and forward-thinking practices," said John Roach, NASS executive director. "This year we opened the conference up to educators at all levels so we could take the real world classroom experience to Capitol Hill."

The two-day event kicked off with a presentation from former West Virginia Gov. Bob Wise, who now represents the Alliance for Excellent Education. Conference participants also were briefed on the federal Every Student Succeeds Act

See NASS/23

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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.

2019 Awards Overview

The 2019 ACSA Award Program is now open for nominations. Watch a short demo, <https://www.screencast.com/t/mxWulMfYwit>, 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/7615/2693/7103/ACSA_Award-s_FAQ.pdf. Access the awards nomination portal at <https://acsa.awardsplatform.com>.

The deadline for award nominations to be submitted to your region leadership is November 30, 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 16, 2018, or contact your charter president with any questions about submitting nomination forms.

Questions? Contact Matt Diggle by email at madiggle@fruitvale.net or by phone at 661-201-0093.

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, 2018, 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 2018 in San Diego.

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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Information: Randy Bangs, randall.bangs@salinassuhd.org

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REPORTER 14 FALL 2018

East Kern Charter

► The East Kern Charter has been working on increasing membership. Our meetings include a complimentary dinner, along with information about current state and federal education policy initiatives. In order to encourage members to attend meetings and attract new members, we are providing professional learning scholarships to members who attend academies, if current members bring a new member to a meeting, they receive a \$5.00 Starbucks card, and individuals who attend a meeting are eligible to participate in a drawing for a \$25 Amazon Gift Card.

East Kern board members delivered New Member Kits and explained the benefits of ACSA to administrators who are not yet ACSA members. Additionally, East Kern is working on using social media to access ACSA information.

We held our first charter meeting in September at Big Papa's in Tehachapi. During the meeting, Sal Arias provided information on school safety. He provided administrators with training information and resources they could take back to their districts. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 26 at 5:30 p.m. at Big Papa's in Tehachapi. We will have speakers talk about the science standards and curriculum.

East Kern Charter is looking forward to a fabulous year!



Dr. Bonnie Porter
East Kern Charter
President

Secondary Coordinator
Tehachapi Unified
School District

Inyo/Mono Charter

► The Inyo/Mono Charter held its first meeting of the year on Monday, Sept. 17 in Bishop, with about 15 people in attendance. This meeting was a great time of team building and collaboration between the administrators from our two counties. These meetings are typically the only time that administrators from our counties get an opportunity to discuss common issues with their colleagues. We also spent a considerable amount of time discussing getting nominations from our charter for the Administrator of the Year and Every Student Succeeding Awards. We have some outstanding administrators in our charter that deserve regional and even state acknowledgement.

Finally, we discussed this year's student scholarships. We have two administrators who have seniors graduating. Rewarding them with scholarships will be our chief priority, however, we may also consider awarding scholarships to other outstanding students from our high schools. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 3 in Mammoth Lakes.



Dr. Don Clark
Inyo/Mono Charter
President

Superintendent
Eastern Sierra Unified
School District

Kings Charter

► Kings Charter hosted their Annual Fall Conference on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at Liberty Middle School in Lemoore, with over 150 people in attendance. We thank

FAST Credit Union for sponsoring our Fall Conference. They do a wonderful job every year of helping Kings ACSA with this event. Lemoore Union Elementary School District is hosting the conference again this year. Our next social is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 18. This is an excellent opportunity for members to network and be involved. We hope to continue to see a good turn out at these socials.



Loretta Black
Kings Charter President

Principal
Cinnamon
Elementary School
Lemoore Union
Elementary School
District

Tulare Charter

► The Tulare Charter is off to a great start! We met for the first time this year in September and had the highest number of administrators attending in recent history. We are working on our goals of continuing legislative advocacy, membership, and professional development. We have reached out to our elected officials and are working to get them scheduled at our monthly meetings.

Membership Ambassadors Tom Giampietro and Steve Graybehl, have been very busy recognizing new principals with coffee and bagels. They have also provided them with the New Member Kits. To date, our ambassadors have met with more than 16 new principals.

Our 6th Annual Golf Tournament was held on Sunday, October 14th at the Valley Oaks Golf Course in Visalia. The event was well attended, we had perfect weather, and

everyone had a wonderful time. Proceeds from the tournament are used to fund student scholarships.

We are very excited that our student charter has been officially recognized by ACSA as the Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter. Congratulations to their president, Nancy Nauman, from Visalia Unified School District.



Vivian Hamilton
Tulare Charter President

Business Manager
Tulare Joint Unified
High School District

Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter

► The Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter has officially been recognized by State ACSA as a Student/Associate Charter and has been busy promoting and recruiting members through presentations at our university and county campuses. We are also finalizing our upcoming Fall Summit, where aspiring administrators can hear from a variety of administrators about their experience working in administration. The Fall Summit will be held Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Visalia Unified Professional Building. Our charter meetings focus on information for aspiring administrators and providing professional development opportunities, including our popular Speed Networking Event that will be held in March. We are also currently looking to fill our officer and board member positions. All aspiring administrators are welcome to attend meetings at the Fresno Pacific

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Visalia campus on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. We always welcome any and all recommendations of current or potential student/associate members to help us strengthen the charter's membership, build future networking/professional development opportunities, and help aspiring administrators build the tools necessary to be successful in future administrative positions.



Nancy Nauman
*Tulare/Kings Student/
Associate
Charter President*

*Content Literacy and
Media TOSA
Visalia Unified
School District*

West Kern Charter

▶ West Kern Charter started the year with more than 45 members at their first charter meeting!

We've been busy working to support ACSA's statewide strategic focus areas through the the following goals:

- 1) Increase involvement with state/local legislation;
- 2) High quality learning experiences;
- 3) Increase support from top administrators; and,
- 4) Increase accessibility and visibility of ACSA.

To increase visibility, we recently began using the hashtag #WestKernACSA for all meetings and social events. We also began providing open access to members for the on-

line calendar, meeting agendas, and budget. All of this information is now available here: Agendas at bit.ly/Agendas-1819 and Calendars at bit.ly/ACSA-WestKernCalendar.

To increase involvement with state/local legislation, West Kern welcomed Assemblyman Vince Fong to our October charter meeting and will host Assemblywoman Sharon Grove — running for Senate — at our November 1 meeting.

To increase ACSA's visibility and member engagement, VP of Membership Dr. Becky Rocha helped organize a very successful Fall Kickoff Mixer on Thursday, Sept. 27 at the new Lengthwise Patio, in Bakersfield. Members enjoyed food, fun, and raffle prizes from the event's sponsor Horace Mann.

With your involvement in our charter, we will work together to guarantee each and every one of our students the academic opportunities to be successful contributors to society. Join us! bit.ly/ACSA-NewMember.

West Kern Charter will again present the Educational Leadership Award at their annual end-of-the-year dinner. Go to <https://bit.ly/2CB-VFhh> to download the nomination form. The deadline to submit the form is Wednesday, May 15, 2019.



Dr. Jason Hodgson
*West Kern
Charter President*

*Director of Professional
Development
Panama-Buena Vista
Union School District*

Cavazos

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was great momentum and we are looking for next region and committee/council touch-points. Staff will consider multiple communications and marketing tools that can be used to provide an overview and consistent messaging about the strategic plan.

Next steps:

- Identify and allocate resources.
- Begin working on action steps.
- Continue to build and roll out the communication strategy.
- Find tune planning systems and calendars.
- Identify performance measures.

Annual Audit

Our ACSA staff did an outstanding job, while short-staffed, to prepare

for the annual audit with our auditor, Dave Ljung, a partner with Gilbert & Associates. There were no major findings and all past recommendations were implemented. It is still a goal of ACSA to build its reserves from the current two months of cash-on-hand (reserves available to pay bills) to three to six months, which is a reasonable non-profit best practice.

Leadership Summit

We'll be in San Diego November 7 through 10 for the Leadership Summit. We encourage all members to attend and represent Region XI.

Retirement Committee: Activity Design

The Retirement Committee will be working at the national level on advocacy efforts. They will head to Washington, DC to cover topics that are pertinent to all ACSA members,

including supplemental benefit maintenance, death benefits, government pension off-sets, and windfall elimination provisions. The Board will make a fiscal commitment of \$10,000 to the committee for their design activity.

Fatal School Violence Task Force

The Fatal School Violence Task Force has been meeting since June to discuss the current level of violence at schools. The task force assembled a tool kit for schools and districts which is now on the ACSA website and the ACSA app. A discussion took place about policy implications, specifically around mental health, school climate and gun safety. The board feels consideration about policy rests with the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) and their recommendations with regard to impact for students. They sug-

gested a member of the committee present the work of the task force to the LPC to inform their work.

Accountability Task Force

The group has been meeting for two years and has provided extensive input into the design of the dashboard. Now that the dashboard is continuing to be tweaked, the task force still has a purpose and will stay in existence. The group will be reconstituted and new members will be added.

President Holly Edds is considering a task force on mental health and school climate issues.

Dr. Blanca Cavazos
State Board of Directors, Region XI
bcavazos@taft.k12.ca.us
661-762-2330

Educational Options Committee

The Educational Options Committee met on Friday, Sept. 14 in Sacramento to discuss important topics as they relate to Educational Options programs.

Together, the group collaborated and provided feedback to support The Alternative Task Force as they make decisions for Educational Options schools and legislative issues in California. In addition, the group is in collaboration with ACSA Leadership Academies to help infuse alternative education.

The mission of ACSA Educational Options is to be the leader at the state level in promoting best practices in teaching and learning while promoting, supporting and influencing accountability, programming, and credentialing, in addition to financial and legislative issues facing the educational options program in the state Educational Options Programs which serve approximately 1.1 million students in California.

There is a sense of urgency to serve the most vulnerable and invisible diverse students with the highest rate of poverty, the highest number of students of color, the highest rate of ELL students.

There exists a moral imperative to provide equitable access for those students who have been cast aside. They must re-engage in a safe place where hope can be instilled to aspire to lifelong goals through high expectations and opportunities for career and college opportunities. It costs \$60K per year to incarcerate one person. Job training in prison or personalized life skills/job training/educa-

tion in schools? We make a difference everyday helping to build resilient, compassionate and competent students even when they have the odds stacked against them. We believe there is a place for everyone at the table and we want you to know how honored we are to serve our students, our schools, and our communities.

Region XI has recently launched its first Educational Options Breaking Barriers Network (ACSA BBN). The mission of ACSA BBN is to develop a strong advocacy for Educational Options students in the region, build and maintain networking opportunities for educators, share and explore model practices in teaching and learning, and influence accountability and legislative issues. The network held a No-Host Mixer on Friday, Oct. 19 at The Planing Mill in Visalia. The group is also offering networking meetings on Tuesday, Dec. 11, Wednesday, March 20, and Wednesday, May 15 at the Visalia Doe Complex at 1 p.m.

Anjelica Zermeño

Educational Options Committee
azermeno@see.tcoe.org

Superintendency Council

The State ACSA Superintendency Council meeting was held recently at the ACSA office in Sacramento. Dr. Wes Smith shared the new three-year strategic plan. Dr. Smith shared that the prior plan was ambitious and multifaceted, and through that roadmap, ACSA had great success, increasing membership, and leveraging opportunities for legislative success in educational policy. The current plan,

contains three main focus points: Membership, Advocacy and Influence, and Organizational Sustainability. I invite you to review the next phase of our organizational progress by visiting www.acsa.org/Strategic-Plan.

In addition to the strategic plan review, the council received information on governmental relations and the status of various educational bills — both those that were signed into law and those which were not. To highlight, the proposal from Asm. Portantino on the late start time for middle and high school students may likely resurface during the next legislative session. The Assembly took up the measure, but it failed to obtain the votes needed to move forward. As with the strategic plan, information on Legislative advocacy can be obtained via the ACSA website.

Lastly, the ACSA Resource Hub was spotlighted (<https://content.acsa.org>). This feature, on the ACSA website, provides a forum for educational professionals to obtain and/or share information on best practices for a variety of educational topics. I encourage you not only to access this wealth of information, but consider contributing as well.

As with every council or committee, these groups provide an opportunity for two-way communication from the state to the region, and from the region to the state. If there are ever pressing issues at your school site, or district, or you desire to pose a question that I can take to this council, please relay those to me. I can be reached by email at darthhr@me.com or taddington@central.k12.ca.us or via

work phone at (559) 925-2619. I wish you all a very successful school year.

Tom Addington

Superintendency Council
darthhr@me.com

Secondary Education Council

The Secondary Education Council meets four times per year. The meetings are held in October, November, January and March. Our council established three goals for the 2017-2018 school year. The 2017-2018 goals consist of building the capacity of high school assistant principals, using Breaking Ranks as a framework for improving practice, and focusing on College and Career Readiness. The goals for 2018-2019 will be updated at our November meeting. Additionally, the ACSA Legislative Advocates regularly attend our meetings and provide updates, as well as request input from our members on legislation and how it will affect our school districts. This year our council is once again able to offer a full strand of professional development at the ACSA Leadership Summit in San Diego.

Dr. Lucy Van Scyoc

Secondary Education Council
lucy.vanscyoc@tulare.k12.ca.us

Middle Grades Education Council

The Middle Grades Council (MGE) met through a webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 9. The purpose of the meeting

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Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter Fall Conference

brought aspiring and experienced administrators together

Aspiring administrators had an opportunity to hear first-hand experiences from new and veteran administrators at the Tulare/Kings Student/Associate Charter Fall Summit on Thursday, Oct. 18 at the Visalia Unified School District Professional Building in Visalia. Five panelists from a wide variety of experience levels shared their answers to a few prepared questions, then answered questions from the audience of about 40.

Panelists included:

- **Sharon Cronk**, principal at Pioneer Union Elementary School in Hanford
- **Jesus Gonzalez**, assistant principal at Redwood High School in the Visalia Unified School District
- **Shanelle Herrera**, assistant principal with Tulare Joint Union High School District
- **Rob Hudson**, Superintendent with Alta Vista Elementary School District in Porterville
- **Scott Kirchman**, assistant principal at Hurley Elementary School in the Visalia Unified School District

Scott Kirchman explained that for those considering becoming an administrator, every day is an interview.

“Even now, when you interview, people will know others that you worked with in the past and they will call them to find out more about you,” he said.

This event was designed to provide those in attendance the chance learn more about the real world of administration so as to help them decide if this is a career path they would like to pursue and to network with current administrators and other educators, allowing them to grow in their careers.

Aspiring administrator Angelina Gonzales said, “I truly enjoyed, and learned a lot from, all the administrators on the panel.”



Charter President Nancy Nauman and her board are to be congratulated on putting together this highly successful event.

Stakeholders in support of the charter include:

- **Brandman University**, Sonia Gutierrez-Mendoza
- **Fresno State University**, Christina Luna
- **Fresno Pacific University**, Doug Bartsch
- **Kings County Office of Education**, Lavonne Chastain
- **Tulare County Office of Education**, Donna Glassman-Sommer and Dr. Craig Wheaton

Watch for details about their mock speed interviewing event in the spring, where aspiring leaders in education will be able to polish their interviewing skills and network with current administrative leaders.

Reports

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was to share context for ACSA and the MGE Council, to discuss our role as a region representative to the MGE Council and what it means to be an active member of the MGE Council.

The ACSA Mission and the three focus areas of ACSA from the Strategic Plan were reviewed. These areas are membership development and support, organizational devel-

opment and sustainability, and advocacy and influence.

The responsibilities for being a region representative to the MGE Council are to report council progress to the region, facilitate local and region-wide networking, communicate and give input with middle and secondary educators and leaders, strengthen region impact at the state level, and promote ACSA membership.

The November Leadership Summit will have three presentations from

the MGE Council. They are Empowering and Engaging Students through Advisory, Trauma Informed Practices, and The Power of a Name: Charting our Past for a More Inclusive Future.

The November meeting of the MGE Council will be in San Diego at the Hilton Bay Front Hotel. The focus areas will be ESSA and the Dashboard, SEL and trauma informed practices, systematic approach to support local and region middle grade leaders, and best practices.

A joint meeting with the Secondary Education Council will cover NASSP leadership activities and recognition and the ACSA strategic frame for the council.

Go to acsa.org/Member-Services/member-discounts to learn about discounts and special offers available exclusively to ACSA members.

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Region XI website

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West Kern Golf Tournament set for April 27

The 16th Annual Ordiz-Melby District Cup Golf Tournament will be held Saturday, April 27, 2019 at Sundale Country Club in Bakersfield. The event is sponsored by



ACSA West Kern Charter and raises funds for student scholarships.

The tournament offers two divisions — Open and District. All District team players must be current or retired district employees to qualify for the District Cup. All other teams will be eligible for the Open Division awards. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to teams in the District and Open divisions. The winning district will be allowed to showcase the District Cup for one calendar year before it's up for grabs again the next year. Awards will also be given to those who are closest to the hole on all Par 3s. Shotgun scramble starts at 12:30 p.m. Players may register as teams or as an individual. We will place you on a team.

Lunch, generously provided by Colombo Construction, will be served at 11:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Terry Wolfe by email at bernardwolfe@aol.com or by phone at 661.565.2773.

Ambassador Program

Did You Know?

The Ambassador Program helps new members navigate ACSA's vast structure, while providing that first and very necessary human contact — giving the organization a face and a name. Region XI has six Charter Ambassadors:

East Kern: Elaine Janson, ejanson@ssusd.org • **Inyo/Mono:** Don Clark, dclark@esusd.org • **Kings:** Bill Black, lemoore.black@gmail.com

Tulare: Tom Giampietro, tomgiampietro@comcast.net & Steve Graybehl, sgraybehl@gmail.com • **West Kern:** Terry Wolfe, bernardwolfe@aol.com

Region XI Lead Ambassador: Bill Black, lemoore.black@gmail.com

Ambassadors come out strong with coffee and bagels for new principals

Ambassadors throughout Region XI kicked off the new school year by delivering Bagels & Coffee to new principals and their staffs.



Lou Saephan

Principal at Woodville Elementary School, Woodville

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A PRINCIPAL?

This is my first principal position. I want to be in a district with high poverty and unique needs. I am the son of two immigrants from Asia. I'm very strategic, well-prepared and passionate for this position. I have had administrative positions in Woodlake,

Farmersville, Burton and Visalia. I love my new community and the families I am serving.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I have been an active ACSA member for over 10 years. I am proud to have the ACSA family as a resource I can rely on, and I do so on a regular basis. I am hungry to improve my district and to provide my teachers and students with a positive educational experience.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I am so happy to be in the type of community that I have always wanted to serve. Parents, students and teachers have welcomed me with open arms and I am so appreciative of their kindness and acceptance.



Maria Bueno

Principal at Goshen Elementary School, VUSD

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A PRINCIPAL?

I wanted to be surrounded in an organization of networking people. I always love school and the environment. After seven years of accounting, both in public and private sectors, I followed my

heart and found my passion in education and student learning. I decided that I can spend my life making a company profitable or I can enrich the minds and hearts of students. My path has been driven by my passion for student change because of my humble background. I found my way to make an impact on students lives, sparking their hearts for learning, helping them to dream for themselves and to believe in the impossible. I want to simply provide them the opportunity to improve their quality of life through education. I want students to love learning. I see a vision where all teachers and employees come to Goshen Elementary with excitement and passion to make a difference. I want all teachers to have a passion for what they teach our students.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA? Learning never stops. I joined ACSA because as educators we represent learning and our lifelong learners. ACSA provides access and opportunity for continued growth, including conferences, and the opportunity to network and meet other administrators.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

Being part of the Goshen team, building relationships, and getting to know all the children. It has been a special experience in my life to reunite with the Goshen communities and families. I see my former students, who are now parents, sharing their success stories and now bringing their children to me. I am humbled.



Bill is pictured with his office clerk, Karen Roebuck.

change I can make as school leader. I enjoy project oriented assignments and the opportunity to work with students who have defined career paths. This job is a perfect fit for me.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I have been a member of ACSA for several years. I always enjoy going to their functions and meeting new people. As a new principal I will utilize the staff development and the ACSA academies provided to us.

Bill Davis

Principal at V-Tech High School, Visalia Unified School District

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A PRINCIPAL?

I wanted to become a principal because my previous experiences in agriculture and as a high school assistant principal have given me a broad knowledge on the

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

During my first week of school I was walking about campus and a young lady asked me if I were the new principal. I said yes and she said, "I can tell you're going to be the right one for us; I enjoy your calm personality."



Pearl (center) is pictured with her support staff.

Pearl Prins

Principal at John C. Fremont Elementary School, Corcoran

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

There are many leaders that have guided and influenced my career. Some of them include

Lora Cartwright, Dave Whitmore, Ken Spencer, Steve Brown and Rich Merlo. They all taught me to watch listen and learn. Our theme this year in Corcoran Unified is "Year of the Climber." This resonates with me. To quote Laozi "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." After I married my husband, he encouraged me to complete my education. As you can tell many people helped me to change my course. I am humbled to be Fremont's Principal.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I joined ACSA to learn from other administrators. I can't go to the meetings, but I read the articles and glean information from other seasoned administrators. The emails keep me abreast of what is happening with regards to laws and changes in procedures. These help keep me safe so I don't make mistakes. It is always good to have support from other leaders.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

Each day brings special moments. My job is to lead my school, but I find joy in my students when they are excited to be at Fremont. This gives me the confidence and encouragement to lead my school. I get excited about the little things. For example, today I was walking around at recess and I heard a student yell "Mrs. Prins!" Before I knew it I was grabbed in a hug. Then she ran away playing. Joy is what I feel when I make a difference with my students, teachers, staff, parents and my community. These are the special moments I treasure.

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Principals

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Tami, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Tami Olson

Principal at the Visalia Adult School, VUSD

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

My experience as a high school Learning Director and Academic Dean at a private junior college makes this job the perfect

fit for me. I enjoy working with adults and the many opportunities that are available to them throughout our entire community. I will provide our students a connection to industry colleges and professional opportunities as they complete our programs.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I have been an ACSA member for over three years. I enjoy the networking, publications, and the academies that are available to each of us. I am proud to be an ACSA member and will help promote this organization to anyone in Region XI.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I have had tremendous support from my staff and from the district office as I have transitioned into this new assignment. Several people, including the ACSA Ambassador, have assured me that my experience and enthusiasm make me a perfect fit for this position. I am excited!



Valerie, third from the left, with members of her staff and Region XI Ambassador Bill Black (left) and Kings Charter Membership Chair Elizabethe Lozano (right).

Valerie Botelho

Principal at Jamison High School, Lemoore

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

When I was a classroom teacher I had a lot of at-risk students in my classes. During that time I realized those students needed a voice or an advocate. The students needed someone in their corner to push them to their fullest potential. For that reason I decided I would like to go to school to become an administrator who works with at-risk youth.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

The reason that I joined ACSA is to stay up-to-date on the current trends and laws in education. I also joined ACSA to network with other administrators.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

The first week of school as a new principal I realized I was working with a staff with hearts of gold. Each and every day I

watch my teachers standing outside the door between class periods, before school, and after school, greeting students as they walk in the door. I also witnessed the staff sitting at the lunch tables engaged in conversation with the students. Students who had been in tears because they didn't want to come to a continuation school were telling me how much they loved it by the end of the first week. The students felt a sense of belonging and support. When a student feels like they belong the sky is the limit.



Melissa, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Melissa Delgadillo

Principal at Golden Valley Elementary School, Orosi

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I chose this career path because of the mentoring and leadership I observed as a youngster growing up in Orange Cove! I always want-

ed to be the person who students, staff, and community looked up to for leadership and stability. It is my calling!

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I joined ACSA to benefit from the networking, the on-going educational experiences and the team of district employees that encouraged me to become a member! My superintendent, Yolanda Valdez sets the tone and encourages all of her administrative personnel to enjoy the many benefits that ACSA provides!

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I have been a learning director and vice principal for several years. When I was introduced as the principal of Golden Valley, I was greeted by staff, parents and students telling me how happy they are to have me as their new leader! I was thrilled to have this backing!



Adriana, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Adriana Baza

Principal at Wilson School, Dinuba

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I grew up in Dinuba and from my earliest recollection had a desire to become a teacher and possibly a principal. My dream came true this year

and I am now the principal at Wilson School! It is my desire to empower the youngsters in my school to someday become educators. I feel I can do so by mentoring and demonstrating a positive attitude!

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I am currently not a member of ACSA, but was all ears when Tom told me about the many resources ACSA can provide to me. I am especially interested in the principal academy!

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I was appointed principal in the spring of 2018. Since that time I have been meeting with staff and getting to know the community. I also started a pet rock project that has taken off with the staff and has made me feel part of a new family. My staff has accepted me and provided many new friendships!



Joaquin, with West Kern Charter Ambassador Terry Wolfe.

Joaquin Elcano

Assistant Principal at Suburu Elementary, Greenfield Elementary School District

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I was inspired to be an administrator by Larry Wilkens. He was my principal/sup growing up. He mentored me

throughout school, helped me find my first job, and encouraged me to keep myself moving forward.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I joined ACSA to increase my ability to collaborate with other administrators outside of my district.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR THUS FAR?

The highlight of my year so far has been seeing a packed house for "Back to School Night." Standing room only.



Christina and her staff.

Christina Gonzales

Principal at Stratford Elementary School, Central UESD

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

When I originally entered the education field 23 years ago as a classroom teacher, I never dreamt I would leave that profession. I loved every minute of my teaching experience, ranging from first through eighth grades, and I thought I would do it forever. My daily motivation was watching my students grow physically, socially, and academically. The smiles on their faces as they greeted me each morning were a constant reminder of how important I was in their lives, and I made a commitment to my students that I would always greet them with the same warm, friendly smile. It wasn't until I had completed my fifteenth year of teaching that I realized I could touch far more lives as a school administrator. As an elementary school principal, I choose to actively be involved in the day-to-day activities of my students. I show up early enough to greet the students as they arrive on the buses, and I make it a point to be visible on the playground and in the classrooms, so that the children understand my role as another caring adult on the school campus. I work hard to learn students' names, and I make sure to seek children out who need a friendly smile. My time with students is precious in my new role, as it can be so easy to get trapped in the demand for paperwork and deadlines. However, with commitment and intentionality, I am able to sustain the balance necessary to positively impact the lives of many children. I have found my new purpose!

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

ACSA offers the benefit of networking with other school administrators who might be experiencing the same celebrations and/

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Principals

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or frustrations that I am.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

Just a few days before school started, Stratford's town well failed, and the entire community was left without running water. On Sunday, I scrambled to find portable toilets, hand washing stations, and bottled drinking water for my students. It all came together quickly for the school, however, the most difficult part was knowing that my students would be expected to return to school without access to showers and washing machines in their homes. Thankfully, the town was able to connect to an agricultural well within a few days to provide these services. We had an outpouring of generosity from many organizations who donated bottled water to our school and to our community until the town was able to repair the damaged well. In the end, it was an amazing experience that brought our school and local community closer together.



Tenci and her staff.

Tenci Brown

*Principal,
Pioneer Union
Elementary School
District, Hanford*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I have been fortunate in my career to have worked with some amazing educators. It is through their support and encouragement that I felt confident to step outside of the classroom and become an administrator. I keep the needs of my staff and students a priority and focus on what I can do to support their success.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

Last year I was teaching 4th grade at the site that I am now the principal of. The first day of school was quite surreal as I walked on campus as principal. From the encouraging notes & small gifts that sat on every student's desk prepared by our teachers to the nicely manicured landscape that our maintenance staff worked so hard on, I could not be any prouder. I have such respect and admiration for my colleagues.



Eric, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Eric Rodriguez

*Principal at Kennedy
Elementary School, Dinuba*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I have always wanted to become a principal that the students and staff would look up to. I was a student in Dinuba and have always wanted to

return to give back the positive, sound education that I received.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I was not sure what to expect as a new principal, but was surprised when the students greeted me with so many nice comments! I realized my new role is to affect the many families and children in the community where I grew up!



Melanie, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Melanie Davis

*Principal at Mountain View
Elementary School, Visalia
Unified School District*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I am new to the Tulare County area. I began my new principalship at Mountain View Elementary School during the middle of last year. I wanted

to become a principal in Tulare County because the challenge of diversity and poverty is something that I have a passion for. I have found my principalship to be challenging, rewarding and everything I dreamed it would be.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I have been overwhelmed by the staff, parents and students as they have accepted me as their new leader. Mountain View, as a community, has welcomed me with open arms and provided me with a confirmation of acceptance!



Stephen, left, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Stephen Bradley

*Principal at Wilson
Middle School, Exeter*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I chose to become an administrator because of the opportunity it provided to make a difference with many more students. I wanted to learn all

phases of running a school site and to learn how I can become the most effective leader I can be! The principal position is providing me with much more input and knowledge when it comes to running a school and how I can be affective working with the district office

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

ACSA was first introduced to me when I was working in the Burton School District. I had excellent ACSA representation and mentoring while I served in that district. The information and connections that ACSA has provided to me makes me an effective and communicative administrator. I have been a member of ACSA for 11 years. I am anxious to attend ACSA events and academies during my tenure.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I became the principal at Wilson in early August. I had very little time to transition from my previous job to my new position. I was touched by the support of the Wilson staff, the school board, and the parents and students in my school community. With love and kindness that my team has shown I am convinced I am in the right place at the right time!



Marlene, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Marlene Celaya

*Principal at El Monte
Middle School, Orosi*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I have a unique story that led me to my first principalship.

I was a math and engineering student in high

school and at Fresno State. I was given the opportunity to help coach high school students and realized that my true love might be in education! I was encouraged by Yolanda Valdez and Stan Carrizosa to consider school administration and the rest is history! I love my work and the challenges.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I joined ACSA because of Yolanda's encouragement and the opportunities provided to me through ACSA.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I received a letter from one of my current students. It was heartfelt and sincere regarding how the student feels she can help as a principal and how she has shown compassion, discipline, and kindness to the students in her prior role as a learning director! The student shared how important it is to have a firm principal, and a caring one!



Rosa, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Rosa Guerrero

*Principal at Summit Charter
Intermediate Academy,
Porterville*

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I was encouraged to apply for my first principalship by my superiors, teachers and classified staff! I have

a strong desire to empower my entire staff to provide the children with a life long learning environment that will motivate them to do their very best in whatever they attempt! I want the best for everyone on my campus and will continue to raise expectations for everyone!

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I am in my first year as an ACSA member. I attended the Principal Institute at UCLA this past summer. I learned so much from this experience and will focus my first year on how to develop a culture on my new campus! I am a strong ACSA advocate and look forward to contributing to this professional organization.

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

Opening up a new school wasn't easy at first because of the number of families that would be split into different schools. Many parents and students were very concerned about going to a new school. I held a parent, community, and student meeting to introduce myself and to discuss my plans for this new experience. At the end of the meeting I received a standing ovation from the audience. That's when I knew this is where I belong!

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Principals

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Rebekah, with Tulare Charter Ambassador Tom Giampietro.

Rebekah Moor

Principal at Charter Home School Academy, VUSD

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ADMINISTRATOR?

I knew that I wanted to become a principal when I developed an understanding of how schools really work, from an administrative perspective. I get excited when I watch teachers respond to training suggestions and recommendations.

WHY DID YOU JOIN ACSA?

I have been an ACSA member since June 2018. I am excited to learn more about the services and programs that I will be able to take advantage of during the coming years. I feel that

ACSA is so important to all new administrators who would like collegial support and the many academies that are offered on an ongoing schedule!

WHAT IS THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR YEAR SO FAR?

I am the first principal in the history of this school. I was delighted when the staff affirmed my appointment and made it very clear to me that they respect and trust their new leader.

New Members

Continued from page 4

Tina M. Shirley

Program Manager
Pinkham Elementary School
Recruiter: Kim Paz

Mark W. Thompson

Principal
Los Tules Middle School
Recruiter: Brian Hollingshead

Jennifer M. Verkaik

Administrative Intern
Garden Elementary School
Recruiter: Philip Pierschbacher

West Kern Charter

Raymond D. Carr

Assistant Principal
Golden Oak Elementary School
Recruiter: Rocío Muñoz

Stephanie I. Garnett

Assistant Principal
Endeavour Elementary School
Recruiter: Rebecca Rocha

Kimberly J. Hoffman

Spec. Educ. & Supp. Secs. Coord.
Fruitvale ESD
Recruiter: Rebecca Rocha

Deana A. Linstead

Vice Principal
John S. Pruitt Elementary School
Recruiter: David Bowling

Suzanne M. Madrid

Coordinator, Special Education
Panama-Buena Vista UESD
Recruiter: Jennifer Angelo

Eva A. Morales

Assistant Principal
Discovery Elementary School
Recruiter: Leslie Garrison

Philip A. Paradise

HR/District Compliance Officer
Kern High School District
Recruiter: Michael Zulfa

Christopher A. Persons

Management Analyst
Kern County Office of Education
Recruiter: Heather Richter

Susana Z. Rios

Principal
Roosevelt Elementary School
Recruiter: Laura Orozco

Nikki Stiles

Assistant Director
Bakersfield City ESD
Recruiter: Shirley Nicholas

Lido D. Wells

Special Education Coordinator
Bakersfield City ESD
Recruiter: Michael Cunningham

Lisa

Continued from page 1

nity by providing opportunities for professional learning and networking. To this end, I strongly encourage all members and potential members to attend and participate in meetings, academies, conferences, and other ACSA activities.

What three words would your best friend use to describe you?

Passionate, loyal, fun-loving.

Tonini

Continued from page 5

Mogharabi, CEO of SoulPancake, and choose from over 90 breakout sessions. The region will be hosting a reception on Thursday evening for region members attending the summit. Plan to attend next year if you are not attending this year. Each year the region offers discounted registration vouchers.

Another excellent opportunity for professional growth is the Mid-State Conference in San Luis Obispo March 8-10. Watch for an email or an alert on your ACSA App for registration information. Professional development scholarships are available through your charter and region. If you don't have the ACSA App, you will find directions on page 19 about how to get it.

It is a pleasure serving you. Email me, text me, or call me if I can help you in any way.

David Tonini

Executive Director, ACSA Region XI

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NASS

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and sat in on two panel discussions, including a presentation on mid-term elections and the impact on Congress and education from Washington, D.C. insiders.

On Tuesday educators spent the day on Capital Hill meeting with federal lawmakers and their staffs. The agenda for these meetings focused on the federal education budget, DACA, and immigration, as well as school safety.

"As informed educators, we need to be present in Washington, D.C. and saying you're a California educator doesn't open doors in the offices of lawmakers from Georgia and Iowa," said ACSA President Holly Edds. "But when you go to the offices representing a national organization like NASS, the doors open and the opportunity to tell real-world stories becomes possible."

— with contributions from EdCal, October 8, 2018

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Grassroots Advocacy Quick-Tips

- **Be well informed.** Do your research before you meet with your legislator - this will help you identify with them and communicate clearly.
- **Understand other perspectives.** Anticipate being presented with an opposing view and don't be afraid to have an in-depth discussion.
- **Be clear on your desired outcome.** Educate, then advocate.
- **Make it personal.** Meet face to face whenever possible.
- **Know your audience.** Understand who the individual legislators are and how much influence they have in the field of education.
- **Bring positivity to the table.** Focus on presenting solutions and options to resolve the problem instead of focusing on the problem itself.

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DISTRICT 21

David Valadao
Republican

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DISTRICT 22

Devin Nunes
Republican

<https://nunes.house.gov/>

DISTRICT 23

Kevin McCarthy
Republican

<https://kevinmccarthy-house.gov/>

United States Senate

Dianne Feinstein
Democrat

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Kamala Harris
Democrat

<https://harris.senate.gov/>

Donating to ACSA PAC is a great way to support the work that ACSA is doing across the state. Go to www.acsa.org/donate to learn more.

Join fellow ACSA members at Leg Action Day, a 2-day advocacy event.