

Today is the last day to vote in the Region 6 election. Check your email from Election Runner on March 1 if you are an eligible member. Check your spam folder if you don't see it.



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

March 2022



President's Message

***“Be the Leader....
Show others the path to success”***

Greetings Fellow Administrators,

We're almost 3/4 of the way through this school year and on the verge of embracing another new normal as we prepare for relaxed masked protocols in our schools. Please remember to stay safe as you continue to do the hard work for student success.

For those of you who are interested, the upcoming Legislative Action Days are going virtual and will be accessible to members remotely. Look for communications from ACSA and Region 6.

As you may know, we had to cancel our Equity Symposium/Leadership Summit that was scheduled on February 26. It would have been our first major in-person event in two years.

However, we continue to plan for our celebration of leadership on April 28. The Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner will be held at the San Ramon Marriott from 5-8 pm. All nominees and winners have been notified. Please get the word out to colleagues in your district/charter. We get the sense that folks are ready and want to connect in a social setting like this. All AOY nominees and winners will be recognized at the dinner.

The dinner will be held in the ballroom of the San Ramon Marriott. The cocktail hour from 5-6 will be held in the ballroom lobby and on the large outside patio.

As we all get closer to spring break at various times, please

take this time to rejuvenate so you can finish off the year strong. Enjoy the onset of spring in the Bay Area. Stay safe. Be strong. Continue to show others the path to success.

[Mark E. Neal](#)

ACSA Region 6 President
Principal, Dublin USD



Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner 2022



**Thursday, April 28,
2022**
5:00 to 8:00 pm
San Ramon Marriott

Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration will be an in-person event again!

Join us in celebrating all of our AOY nominees and winners
(list can be found on our [website](#))

Thursday, April 28, 2022
5:00 - 6:00 pm Cocktail hour (1 complimentary beer, wine, or soda)
6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner and Awards presentation

San Ramon Marriott
Tickets \$60

Register on [Eventbrite](#) until April 11



Thank you to the Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Committee!

18 of our R6 members volunteered to review the 68 nominations submitted this year. The committee was divided into 4 teams each deliberated on 5-6 categories. Each member individually read the nominations and ranked the nominees. The teams then convened virtually and made recommendation for the region winner in each category assigned.

We appreciate the time each committee member devoted to this very important task and insured that the process was a fair and equitable one. Thank you to our VP of Programs Pam Hughes for overseeing the selection of the Administrators of the Year.

Committee members represented many charters and districts in the region: Kevin Ahern, Valerie Nebo, Nia Rashidchi, Diane Burns, Pam VandeKamp, Jeremy Vilkins, Karen Johnson, Dustin Gacherieu, Nicole Joyner, Frank Wells, Dick Lloyd, Christina Filios, Roxana Mohammed, Kathy LaCome, Sandy Prairie, Evan Powell, Michael Cubacub, and Sonja Neely-Johnson.

More importantly, thank you to those of you who took the time to write the nominations of your colleagues and shine a light on the outstanding work across our region. Our region winners will now be considered finalists for state ACSA Administrators of the Year. State winners will be announced at the end of March.



ACSA One Voice for Students and Legislative Platform Updated

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

ACSA's Legislative Platform, adopted every two years, established the advocacy priorities for the organization during the state and congressional sessions, which guides the work of ACSA Governmental Relations staff.

In an effort to align the One Voice for Students and the Legislative Platform, they were combined to create a joint process and one document to inform lawmakers of the organization's highest education priorities. The One Voice for Students 2021-2022 Legislative Platform was developed with input from ACSA membership and reviewed and edited by the Legislative Platform Working Group and the Legislative Policy Committee and then submitted for ratification by the Leadership Assembly and approval of the ACSA Board of Directors.

This document was recently updated and approved. The priority areas for ACSA advocacy are:

- Keeping Schools Safely Open
- Equity-Centered Educational Practices
- Wellness and Mental Health
- Educator Staffing Crisis
- School Funding
- School Facilities and safety
- Special Education
- Universal Transitional Kindergarten Implementation

You can access the entire document [here](#).

A Model of Success - Val Verde USD

Led by Superintendent Mike McCormick and Assistant Superintendent for Education Services, Mark LeNoir, Val Verde Unified School District has developed multiple strategies to implement equity initiatives throughout their school district.

Val Verde Unified School District is located in the heart of the Inland Empire, approximately 72 miles east of Los Angeles. Its schools serve more than 19,000 students residing in the rural and suburban communities of Perris, Moreno Valley, and portions of unincorporated Riverside County. The district currently operates a preschool, 12 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 3 comprehensive high schools, a student success academy, a virtual academy, and a continuation high school. 83% of the students are identified as socioeconomically disadvantaged and 19% are English learners. Nearly 78% of their students are Hispanic and African American students represent over 12% of the district's enrollment.

At the February 17 ACSA Leadership Assembly, ACSA Sr. Director of Equity Adonai Mack invited the Val Verde team to share their strategies that led to the implementation of a policy to make FAFSA a graduation requirement, implementation of their ethnic studies program prior to state legislative mandate, and how they have utilized mindful conversations to discuss race and improve the mental wellness of their students and staff. They also shared their approach to parent/family engagement with an emphasis on their African American families.

Val Verde has become a model district for staying true to their mission to become a district that creates a positive environment that produces life-long learners who will become responsible, contributing citizens able to function in a culturally diverse society.

You can access their presentation [here](#).



Opportunity to Participate in Research Study

Dr. Mari Gray is an Assistant Professor at CSUEB in the Department of Educational Leadership. She is conducting a study: *The Educational Experiences of African American Children During the Great Migration: 1930-1970*. The study proposes to document the unique and important experiences for the historical record.

Dr. Gray is recruiting African American participants for this study who attended schools in the Bay Area and Sacramento Valley during the Great Migration, the period of mass African American migration from the South to the North.

Here is Dr. Gray's [letter of invitation](#) with details of the study and criteria for participants. Her contact information can be found in the letter.



Every Student Succeeding

ACSA believes every student deserves equal opportunities to succeed. On every school day throughout California, dedicated educators and courageous students overcome tremendous obstacles to reach their goals of academic excellence.

Thank you to Region 6 members who shared the stories of their students. 11 students were nominated for the award this year.

The Region 6 winner is Carmelo Santiago who is a GED student in the Livermore Valley JUSD YouthBuild Program. He will receive a \$1000 award from Region 6. He will also be recognized at the annual ACSA Leadership Summit in November where he will receive another \$1000 award. Congratulations! Carmelo was nominated by Jeremy Vilkins.

The following students were selected as finalists and each will receive a \$250 award:

- Isabella Pacheco (Livermore Valley JUSD, nominated by Valerie Nebo)
- Abedel Yousef Eid (New Haven USD, nominated by Grace Kim)
- Anissa Maria Haro (New Haven USD, nominated by Grace Kim)
- Noemi Salazar (San Leandro USD, nominated by Paulette Smith)
- Jessica Reyes Farjardo (San Lorenzo, nominated by Jessica Vaughn)

Congratulations to all these courageous students and thank you to the ACSA members who nominated them and shared their inspiring journeys.



From Your Region Executive Director

ACSA Advocacy

We have heard from members that they would like to hear more about what ACSA is doing on advocacy. ACSA puts out frequent communications through emails, Twitter and other social media platforms. If you are not receiving these emails, check your spam folder or check with your district's IT

department as well as be blocked by your spam filter. Follow @ACSA_info on Twitter. Also, the ACSA website provides current resources that are invaluable to all levels of administrators. The above article on ACSA One Voice for Students and Legislative Platform provides updated advocacy priorities for this year.

Here are a couple of examples of ongoing ACSA legislative and advocacy work.

ACSA Legislative Lunch Break



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1:00 PM
LIVE ON ACSA FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE
SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

HOSTED BY: NAJ ALIKHAN, EDGAR ZAZUETA
THIS WEEK'S GUEST: JERRAN HILLBERRY

FACEBOOK.COM/ACSALIVE
YOUTUBE.COM/ACSALIVE
TWITTER.COM/ACSA_INFO

Don't miss this edition of Legislative Lunch Break at 1 p.m. today! The countdown has begun for California public education leaders to implement the governor's new directives on masking in schools. How are some districts working to create a smoother transition and what are some of the unexpected challenges facing our school leaders? We'll take a deep dive into the new masking regulations and what they will mean in classrooms. Plus, we'll take your questions and comments.

Latest Legislative Updates

Keep up to date on the budget and other key issues in education. Each Wednesday at 1:00 pm, ACSA Sr. Directors Edgar Zazueta and Naj Alikhan host ACSA Legislative Lunch Break. These sessions provides the latest news relevant to your jobs and include many expert guests. If you cannot tune in live on Facebook, the recording can be found on the ACSA website.



ACSA Council Leaders Engaging in Federal Advocacy

ACSA leaders Derrick Lawson, Scott Borba, Eveline Huh, Buck Roggeman and Mistee Hightower Guzman (Region 6 and Middle Grades Council President) are meeting with congressional offices at the National Association of Elementary School Principals/NASSP advocacy conference in Washington, DC! They're discussing impacts of education policies at home in California. Thank you for being such great representatives!

2022 Legislative Action Day

ACSA Legislative Action Week, will be held virtually April 4-8, 2022. This is an important opportunity to discuss issues facing our students today as well as the importance of school leadership in improving student achievement. On Monday, April 4 and Tuesday, April 5, State ACSA will host virtual programming from 9am-12 noon. Similar to last year's virtual setting, more ACSA members will have access to the presentations without having to travel to Sacramento. We will share more information as it becomes available. Our VP Legislative Action, James Parrish, will be scheduling small team meetings with our local legislators in the afternoons of April 4 & 5 or later in the week. If you are interested in participating in those virtual meetings, contact James at jparrish@slusd.us.

Legislative Action Day activities is a great opportunity for members to see and experience how our organization engages in some of most important work of ACSA on our behalf for the students in our state. This ACSA mission was the main reason I joined ACSA when I started my administrative career in 1990. Since it would have been difficult for me to directly advocate for public education and our students, it was comforting that ACSA was there and continues to provide a voice for administrators.

[Rose Lock](#), Region 6 Executive Director



In honor of our association's big birthday in 2021-22, ACSA is inviting members to



help celebrate by sending in photos, videos and memories from the last five decades of educational leadership. Visit [acsa.org/acsa-50](https://www.acsa.org/acsa-50) all year long to see how we're celebrating.



Welcome to new ACSA members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in the last quarter:

Acalanes UHSD

Sara Harris, Eric Shawn, Jonathan Drury

Albany USD

Anne Shin

Antioch USD

Pamela Seto

Brentwood UESD

Robert Remley

Castro Valley USD

Beth Cutter, Delnaz Hosseini

Dublin USD

Heather Duncan, Sharon Spivack, Erika Brown

Hayward USD

Cynthia Ortiz, Carla Jordan

Mt. Diablo USD

Carolyn Hull, Ivanna Huthman

New Haven USD

Martha Garcia

Newark USD

Ariel Dolowich

Oakland USD

Kianga Lee-Curtis

Oakley UESD

Lynne Vind, Jennifer Bright, Maritza Sanchez, Lynelle Russell, Lidia Fernandez, Delaura Pigati

Orinda UESD

Kevin Cutler

Piedmont USD

Joaquin Fierro

Pleasanton USD

Elizabeth Louderback, Kelly French, Ailsa Rehkopf

San Ramon Valley USD

Margrette Wui

West Contra Costa USD

Kenneth Hurst, Alvin Jump

Retiree Charter

Rebecca Wheat,

Student and Associate Members

Benjamin Lee

Thank you to ACSA member for continuing to recruit new members:

Janet Gates (2), Pam VandeKamp, Chris Calabrese, Michael Corritone, Meredith Bullock, Frank Wells



Region 6 Partners Corner

Thank you to all our 2022 Partners for continuing to support educational leaders. Our partners' donations allowed us to offer high quality professional development at no cost to ACSA members and non members the last couple of years. Learn more about these partners on our website [Partners page](#).

Some of these partners will have an exhibit at our Awards Dinner on April 28. Please drop by their table to say hello and thank you!





[Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)

[Region 6 Website](#)

Region 6 Staff

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director

[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

Region 6 Leadership

President: Mark Neal

President-Elect: Tracie Noriega

Past President: Jacob Berg

VP, Staff Development: Lorianne Ventura

VP, Programs: Pam Hughes

VP, Legislative Action: James Parrish III

VP, Membership: Renee Lama

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: Kathy LaCome

Comptroller: Annette Heldman

Equity Chair: Tracie Noriega

Communication Chair: Marcus Walton

ACSA Board Director: Sonja Neely-Johnson

At-Large Representatives: Christina Filios,

Nanette Gray, Evan Powell, Harvey Yurkovich

The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system, and the development and support of inspired educational leaders who meet the diverse needs of all California students.
