

In this issue, you will find the newly approved ACSA One Voice Legislative Platform and the new iteration of the ACSA Strategic Plan. These 2 documents will give you a good sense of our professional organization. We are ACSA proud! We are proud educational leaders!



Advance Newsletter

association of california
school administrators

region 6

March 2023

President's Message



Leading for Justice, a Work of "Heart"

Dear ACSA Region 6 Leaders,

How are you? How is your practice coming along that helps to attend to your heart, health, and well-being? Like mine, I'm sure some days are better than others. Take this as a reminder to take deep breaths. Perhaps you can pause for this [2-minute meditation](#). Keep this handy when you need to re-center yourself after a stressful situation.

After a year of COVID variants and everyone re-adjusting to in-person school life, this school year was supposed to be the year to pick up where we left off in March of 2019. This time of year is also when we struggle to stay in the moment but are already planning for the next school year by creating comprehensive schedules (formerly known as "master" schedules), placing and recruiting staff, and projecting budgets. It is also the time of year when we look at our list from August and then try to cram everything we had planned into the next few months so that we feel more accomplished in June. That's not just me, right?

Let's switch it up and create a list of everything we have accomplished this school year. Write down your successes and bright spots! Celebrate! I am sure that the list is long and noteworthy.

Region 6 has much to celebrate! We hosted successful membership events where we've seen new faces, our professional development sessions were well attended, we created a space for co-administrators, and we held a very successful Equity Symposium with regions 5 and 8. In 2019, Tovi Scruggs-Hussein and I held our first R6 Equity

Symposium based on the premise that there was so much knowledge in our region, and we should create a space to showcase the work as well as form a network of support. Now that network has grown. Thank you to all of our presenters and attendees for helping to make this first annual collaboration a huge success.

I invite you to the last session of our 3 part series on “Demystifying Critical Race Theory” on Thursday, March 23, 2023 from 4:30-6:00 pm. We’ve gained more insight into the theory's origins and tenets, and our last session will include applying those tenets to our leadership. [Please use this link to register.](#)

Speaking of leadership, I have been reading [The Four Pivots: Reimagining Justice, Reimagining Ourselves](#). Dr. Shawn Ginwright discusses how “the most important aspect of social change is healing—both on an individual and collective level.” He shares four pivots, four ways, that moves us to healing-centered leadership. [Here is an article that summarizes the book.](#) I hope what he offers resonates with you as it has with me.

I look forward to celebrating our outstanding Administrators of the Year together on Thursday, April 27th. It will be another sold-out event, so get your tickets and help cheer on your colleagues.

Please remember to breathe and celebrate the wins. This work is not easy, but collectively, we can make a difference.

In Community,
[Tracie Noriega](#)
Region 6 President
and Equity Chair



Region 6 Executive Committee 2023-24

Congratulations to these newly elected leaders in Region 6:

- Matt Chamberlain, President-Elect
- Paulette Smith, Vice President of Programs
- Christina Filios, Vice President of Staff Development
- Harvey Yurkovich, Vice President of Membership
- Janet Gates, Secretary
- Eileen Chen, At-Large Representative (Contra Costa County)
- Rochelle Hooks, At-Large Representative (Alameda County)

They will join the following continuing members on the Executive Committee:

- Raul Zamora, President
- Tracie Noriega, Past President
- Kathy LaCome, Vice President of Legislative Action
- Annette Heldman, Treasurer
- Sonja Neely-Johnson, Representative to ACSA Board of Directors

The following members were approved to fill the appointed positions:

- Christy Glaser, Equity Chair
- Pam VandeKamp, Communications Chair
- Jenny Vargas, At-Large Representative (Contra Costa County)
- Efa Huckaby, At-Large Representative (Contra Costa County)

Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration

Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration

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

Thursday, April 27, 2023

5:00 - 6:00 pm Cocktail hour (1 complimentary beer, wine, or soda)
Featuring music by the mariachi band from Pleasanton USD

6:00 - 8:00 pm Dinner and Awards presentation

Double Tree Hotel, Pleasanton
Tickets \$60

Register on [Eventbrite](#) until April 13

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

27 of our R6 members volunteered to review the 83 nominations submitted this year. The committee was divided into 5 teams each deliberated on 3-5 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: Paulette Smith, Valerie Nebo, Nia Rashidchi, Pam VandeKamp, Jeremy Vilkins, Dustin Gacherieu, Nicole Joyner, Frank Wells, Dick Lloyd, Christina Filios, Sandy Prairie, Evan Powell, Bethanee Witczak, Phyllis Hamilton, Tess Johnson, Lorianne Ventura, Janet Gates, Nanette Gray, Jennifer Sachs, CJ Cammack, Rami Muth, Amy Wallace, Navdeep Purewal, Raul Zamora, Alex Harp, Heidi McFadden, Brian Scharmann.

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.



Bay Area Equity Symposium

Reprinted from EdCal, March 6, 2023

<https://edcal.acsa.org/equity-event-puts-students-at-the-center>

Equity event puts students at the center

Regions 5, 6 and 8 unite to hold first ever Bay Area Equity Symposium

The first annual Bay Area Equity Symposium was held Feb. 17-18 at the Ameswell Hotel in Mountain View. A collaboration between the leadership of ACSA Regions 5, 6 and 8, the conference attracted more than 100 attendees who brought excitement, joy and positive energy to the symposium. "Keeping Students at the Center" was the conference theme and the charge of every attendee.

Region 6 President and Equity Committee member Tracie Noriega opened the meeting with qi gong exercises and shared some words from a letter she wrote to colleagues, "Leading for Justice, a Work of 'Heart.'" Friday's Keynote Speaker was G.T. Reyes, professor at CSU East Bay, who inspired attendees with his talk on "Takin' WOKE Back." His message assured leaders that we are a community doing this hard work together. It requires constant critical dialogue and listening, critical reflection, critical action, and critical knowledge, which then informs our praxis as leaders for change.

Region 8 President Sheila Walters welcomed attendees on Saturday morning before introducing Daryl Camp, who moderated a student panel featuring high schoolers from the three regions. Camp asked the panel about their school experiences, including describing a "safe" space, when they felt empowered, and any advice they would like to share. A student said they wanted to see themselves in the curriculum, like in Ethnic Studies classes. Another noted that they appreciated when adults could see their potential and continued encouraging them. A student discussed not being fake and really believing in what you are saying. They advise having "personal connections over a PowerPoint."

"The student panel was something that will forever impact the way I respond to students," said Charity Hastings, an attendee from Region 6, reflecting on her experience.

The student panel set the tone for the day's events, which included 15 sessions for attendees to choose from, each presented by equity champions from within regions 5, 6 and 8. The planning committee received over 30 proposals.

ACSA President-elect Parvin Ahmadi also addressed attendees and expressed excitement about the journey that ACSA is currently on with several firsts, including the fact that she will be the first ACSA president who is an immigrant, English learner and of Iranian descent.

Superintendent Ahmadi also introduced lunchtime keynote speaker Tyson Amir, author of "Black Boy Poems" and consultant to districts in creating culturally responsive curriculum, who led attendees through a history lesson on education in the U.S. He stated that it is vital for educators to know the history of the system we work in for us to take action.

The closing keynote address was by leader and healer Tovi Scruggs-Hussein, who spoke on "Praxis of Leadership DO-ing to Leadership BE-ing."

"Tovi Scruggs-Hussein created a space where we shared our stories growing up as students and/or as educators within inequitable systems," said Victor Tam from Region 5. "I learned that while the details of our stories may have been unique, our experiences were, far too often, painfully common. She reminded us of the importance of centering ourselves around healing to address inequity more effectively."

Region 5 President Diego Ochoa gave closing remarks by thanking attendees and sharing that Region 5 would take the lead for next year's Bay Area Equity Symposium. He also asked everyone to reflect on the Mexican saying "Si quiere conocer Ines, debe vivir con ella un mes." This saying reiterates the student panel's message: If we are really about them (the students), we will genuinely and authentically get to know them.

"I'm so grateful for the meaningful conversations with peers and educational leaders," said attendee Katie Schroeder of Region 8. "These topics don't get the time and attention they deserve in our busy days, so having this symposium felt regenerative, healing and thought-provoking for where we go from here."



The first ACSA Bay Area Equity Symposium hosted by Regions 5,6,8



Outstanding leadership from our 3 Region Presidents: Tracie Noriega, Sheila Walters, and Diego Ochoa



Dr. G.T. Reyes from CSU East Bay offering an inspirational keynote on Friday evening



Dr. Ardella Daily and Dr. Daryl Camp reconnecting during the social hour



R6 Leaders, Evan Powell and Christy Glaser from San Ramon Valley USD, excited to be at our first Bay Area Equity Symposium.



The mighty team from San Leandro USD: Renee Lama, Kimberly Noble, Alex Harp and Tracie Noriega



Paulette Smith and friend enjoying the networking time at the Symposium



Liberty Union HSD administrators well represented in the serious conversations on equity.



The amazing team of Classified Leaders from Castro Valley USD



Dr. Camp moderating student panel which set a powerful tone for Saturday



A packed room of courageous educational leaders committed to equity and engaging in sometime difficult conversations



ACSA President-Elect Parvin Ahmadi is always leading and modeling equity work



Tyler Amir enlightening the audience in offering a history of education in the US.



Deb Brill and Will Cason from Albany USD sharing their impactful work on restorative justice



Tovi Scruggs-Hussein speaking on the "Praxis of Leadership DO-ing to Leadership BE-ing"



ACSA State Board Adopts New Strategic Plan and Legislative Platform

How well do you know ACSA, YOUR PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION?

ACSA's One Voice for Students 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.

[Download One Voice Legislative Platform](#)



Association of California School Administrators Legislative Platform 2023-24

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) is to advocate in the best interest of students and to develop, empower and inspire equity-minded educational leaders. ACSA strives to be the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system that meets the diverse needs of all California children and adult education students.

ACSA's Legislative Platform plays a pivotal role in prioritizing the work of the Governmental Relations' team and members' local advocacy efforts. The Legislative Platform is developed by the Legislative Policy Committee, ratified by the Leadership Assembly and adopted by the Board of Directors every two-year legislative session, with a mid-session update. While the Legislative Platform identifies key advocacy priorities, the Governmental Relations staff will advocate on additional policy areas that arise over the course of the legislative session that promote the organization's mission and vision.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

STUDENT SUCCESS: Advocating for the resources needed to ensure students have equitable educational access and opportunities — from early childhood to college and into the workforce.

EQUITY: Advocating to dismantle systemic barriers that limit the success of historically underserved students and for policies and practices that result in equitable educational outcomes.

EDUCATOR SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING: Elevating the voices of educational leaders in the policymaking process and advancing policies that support professional growth and success, as well as policies that protect the social, emotional and physical well-being of school leaders.

LOCAL CONTROL: Empowering and entrusting local educational leaders and partners to best serve their local school communities. Supporting policies and robust funding mechanisms that enable local educational leaders to make decisions that achieve exceptional outcomes.

HIGH-QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION: Renewing trust in public education as the institution essential for individual advancement, our state's prosperity and the cornerstone of democracy.

PRIORITY POLICY AREAS

EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY-BASED EQUITY

ACSA is unwavering in its commitment to supporting policies that advance equity, diversity, belonging and inclusion. This commitment extends beyond the school setting as societal factors, including economic standing and health outcomes, are determinants of student success. ACSA will continue advocating for equity-centered policies that empower underserved and underrepresented groups with additional resources as well as policies that support all student groups in realizing their highest potential.

Policy recommendations may include, but are not limited to:

- a) Dismantling systemic barriers that impact student learning and success;
- b) Advocating for policies that enhance educational opportunities for all students, especially those historically underserved and under-resourced;



The next iteration of ACSA's Strategic Plan 2023-25 was adopted by the ACSA Board of Directors on February 27 after the work began more than a year ago by the ACSA Leadership Development Committee.

[Download Strategic Plan](#)

[Download Strategic Framework](#)

mission | who we are

The mission of the Association of California School Administrators is to advocate in the best interests of students and to develop, empower and inspire equity-minded educational leaders.

vision | where we are going

The Association of California School Administrators is the driving force for an equitable, world-class education system that can meet the diverse needs of all California students.

values | what we stand for

- Social, Emotional, and Physical Well-being
- Right to Quality Education
- Impact of a Quality Education
- Student Potential
- Equity and Opportunity
- Learning
- College and Career Readiness
- Educational Leadership
- Vision for Education

goals | where we will produce results

- Member Development and Support
- Advocacy and Influence
- Organizational Development and Sustainability

objectives | what we strive to achieve

- To provide accessible, relevant opportunities for professional learning and leadership development through which members can acquire, apply and demonstrate new knowledge, as well as expand career pathways.
- To drive professional excellence as the members' first source for timely, comprehensive information on professional trends, issues, practices and resources.
- To be a dynamic professional community of educational leaders who collaborate and contribute their experience and expertise to support each other's professional growth.
- To shape policy for a world-class education system and improved outcomes for all students by aligning the collective influence of members at the local, state and federal levels.
- To be a leader, credible voice, and trusted partner in addressing the issues impacting the diverse needs of students and the administrators that support them.
- To optimize ACSA structure, human and financial resources, and impact through shared vision, leadership, stewardship and accountability at all levels of the Association.

2023-2024 priorities | How we will focus short-term action

Among other initiatives, ACSA will take the following action to support our members in the coming year:

- Shorter professional development opportunities
- Options for post-program continuous learning, networking and support
- Customized options for career development, along with mentoring opportunities
- Community groups for members with different interests or job-alikes
- Resources and support for member, student and educator well-being
- More frequent updates on ACSA government relations activity
- More member access to information exchanged and developed in Committee and Council meetings
- Stronger partnerships with like-minded affinity groups
- Intentional strategies to seek out and engage new, aspiring, experienced and retired members



Region 6 Supporting Members Professionally and Personally

Region 6 offers programs to support our members financially. We will be recognizing all of these winners at the Region 6 Awards Luncheon on April 20, 2023.

Mini-Grants

Congratulations to Paulette Smith, Principal of Madison Elementary School in San Leandro USD who will receive \$1000 for her school garden project.

Bob Blackburn Student Scholarships

Region 6 awarded thirteen \$1000 scholarships to children of ACSA members who are graduating high school seniors and plan to pursue higher education.

Congratulations to the following students and their ACSA member parent:

- Henry Balmat (Janet Gates)
- Sophia Castro (Nancie Castro)
- Matthew Campopiano (Jon Campopiano)

- Addison Prairie (Sandy Prairie)
- Christian Vu Quindipan (Ai Thuy Vu)
- Kennedy Schoennauer (Lisa Gonzales)
- Landry Schoennauer (Lisa Gonzales)
- Sofia Tortorelli (Aimee Cayere)
- Sofia Yurkovich (Harvey Yurkovich)
- Mikeyla Agregado (Ken Yetta Agregado)
- Claire Prairie (Sandy Prairie)
- Layla Lama (Renee Lama)
- Nicole Fernandez (Chien Wu-Fernandez)



Thinking of Retirement or Know Someone Who is? Share this...

Inviting you...



As you plan to retire, you are invited to become a member of the ACSA Region 6 Retiree Charter. Join an energetic group of educators who meet regularly to network and socialize. The group offers an opportunity to receive ACSA updates and news, as well as retirement career opportunities. This group gathers for three luncheons a year that provide a social environment and guest speakers on topics which have included retirement issues both as public sector employees and seniors, the arts, leisure and political analysis of current events. It provides a wonderful venue to raise questions and concerns about retirement rights and benefits. Take the first step and send your contact information to Rose Lock, our ACSA Region 6 Executive Director, so you can start receiving information about upcoming activities. Her email is roselockR6@gmail.com. Note: Even if you have been an ACSA member, you must re-apply for the Retiree Membership which can be done on the ACSA website at ACSA.org.



[Download](#) above document and share.



From Your Region Executive Director

ACSA Region 6 leadership for 2023-24

In addition to the Executive Committee, the R6 Leadership Team includes appointed representatives to ACSA's 20 plus Committees and Councils. Together, members of these two groups make up the Region 6 Board of Directors.

The following members were appointed by the Executive Committee on March 10:

- Sharita Williams (Adult Ed Council)
- Annette Heldman (Business Services Council)
- Nicole Joyner (Classified Leaders Council)
- Steve Amaro (Co-Administration Committee)
- John Moon (Early Education Council)
- Sheila Jemo (Ed Options Council)
- David Thornley (Elementary Ed Council)
- Evan Powell (Secondary Ed Council)
- Norma Gonzales (Human Resource Council)
- James Parrish (Student Services/Special Ed Council)
- CJ Cammack (Superintendency Council)
- Jennifer Sachs (Curriculum and Instruction Council)
- Christy Glaser (Equity Committee)

Members continuing in their term as council/committee rep for R6:

- Julie Duncan (Career Technical Ed Council)
- Raul Zamora (Legislative Policy Committee)
- Danielle Winford (Middle Grades Council)
- Gail Yothers (Retirement Committee)
- Harvey Yurkovich (Small District Committee)

Our representatives attend state meetings with those from the other 18 regions. If you have interest or concerns in their respective committee/council focus, don't hesitate to reach out to them. To learn more about the work of ACSA Committees and Councils, go to webpage at <https://www.acsa.org/About-Us/committees-councils>

NEW THIS YEAR. (You might have read about this new opportunity in EdCal)
"ACSA members have the honor to serve on Committees and Councils based upon job-alike functions or sharing a common interest or goal. For 2023, several of ACSA's Committees and Councils will offer an open session, Virtual Networking Event, where administrators will be able to join others similar in their job position or interest to network and learn. Meeting dates and times are listed below and all will be held virtually. You must register using the Zoom link which is listed below each meeting date and time. ACSA looks forward to seeing new faces at these events!"
There are a few opportunities remaining this school year. [Download schedule.](#)

Please check the ACSA website at www.acsa.org/committees-councils for the most up-to-date information as times/dates are subject to change.

Thank you to all these busy administrators for stepping up to be ACSA leaders. This is another way we can make a difference for students and public education in California!

Happy spring!

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



Welcome to New ACSA Members



Region 6 welcomes the following new ACSA members in November, December, January, February:

Acalanes UHSD

Jami Greer, Daniel Carvalho

Alameda USD

Julie Venuto

Antioch USD

Phyllis James, Nathaniel Hill, Heather Ogden

Berkeley USD

Enikia Ford Morthel

Contra Costa County Office of Ed

Kandi Hayes,

Fremont USD

Sandhya Sharma, Angela Bianchini, Joshua Hunter

Hayward USD

Jason Arenas, Linda Itoka, Gennette Kimber, Kwasi Reed, Alvaro Franco, Andrea Gil, Gabriel Morales

Lafayette ESD

Lisa Spiegler, Brandy Hennefer

Livermore Valley JUSD

Mary Grace

Martinez USD

Laura Greenblatt, Mike Cannon

Mt. Diablo USD

Megan Gerdts, Shakira Durham, Coleen Martin, Ryan Sheehy, Carissa Weintraub, Amanda Loushin

Oakland USD

Devika Sood

Pittsburg USD

Trina Plummer, Kathryn Agudo, Jeannine Megia

Pleasanton USD

Barbara Jernstedt

San Ramon Valley USD

Kristine Sexton, Craig Bocks, Keri Van de Star, Charlie Litten, Amy Capurro

West Contra Costa USD

Robert McEntire, Perlita Vickroy, Koy Hill, Ariel Kirshenbaum, Gabriel Chilcott, Barbara Jellison

Retirees

Carolyn Trimble, Susan Goldman

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

Vicenta Ditto, Sonja Neely-Johnson, Heidi Leber, Matt Chamberlain, Christina Filios (2), Julie Braun Martin, Benjamin Campopiano, Melanie Jones, Lindsay Wisely (2), Lynnette Chirrick, Aurora Sweet,



Region 6 Partners Corner

Our partners' donations allow us to offer high quality professional development and programs that serve our members. We are grateful for their support of public education leaders. Learn more about these partners on our website [Partners page](#).

We welcome 2 new partners from ACSA's Partners 4 Purpose Program: Right at School and K-12 Insight. Here are some resources from our R6 partners.

Right At School

For over a decade, Right At School has provided safe, engaging, and meaningful extended day programming, enriching the lives of students, giving parents peace of mind, and enabling schools to focus on their academic mission. Their vision is to bring exceptional, affordable programs to as many students, families and schools as possible to help districts foster academic growth and social-emotional well being, close achievement gaps, and expand access to enriching beyond the bell learning opportunities.

We encourage you to view the Right At School website (<https://www.rightatschool.com/ELOP>) to learn more about the organization and how they can help you expand access to high-quality extended learning opportunities with ELO-P. They proudly partner with Fremont, San Ramon, Brentwood, Martinez, and (soon to be) Alameda, just to name a few in the area!

Right At School's Dr. Dawn Bridges, Vice President of Educational Affairs, speaks on [The Wisdom of Collaborative Leadership](#). She outlines a few steps that leaders can take to inspire and sustain a more collaborative approach to student success across the school system. Join Right At School in paving the way to collaborative innovation and success!

California Casualty Awards Music and Arts Grants

It is that time again where California Casualty has opened up applications for this year's Music & Arts Grants program!

The California Casualty Music and Arts Grant program will consider grant requests for public K-12 schools whose music and arts programs are in jeopardy or in great need of funding. Requests will also be considered for individual classrooms wishing to integrate music and/or arts projects within school curriculum.



To apply for your school, please complete the online application located in the link below. Deadline for applications is July 2, 2023. Applications received by July 2, 2023 will be notified of their status by September 30, 2023.

<https://www.calcasmusicartsgrant.com>

California Consulting

Here are some grant opportunities for schools and districts:

[Download a copy of Popular Educational Grant Opportunities March 2023](#)



2022-2023 Partners



AIG Retirement Services



[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: Tracie Noriega

President-Elect: Raul Zamora

Past President: Mark Neal

VP, Staff Development: Lorianne Ventura

VP, Programs: Pam Hughes

VP, Legislative Action: Kathy LaCome

VP, Membership: Renee Lama

Secretary: Christy Glaser

Treasurer: 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.

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