



FLASH

association of california
school administrators

region 6

March 1, 2025

ACSA Region 6 Election for 2025-26

2025 Slate of Candidates Election Open March 1 - March 8, 2025

[Link to Ballot](#)

1 vote per ACSA Member



**Christina Filios
Yiannakopoulos**

Assistant Director of
Educational Services
Mt. Diablo USD

President-Elect

I have been a proud member of ACSA for 17 years. Since 2020, I have served on the Region 6 Executive Committee, initially as an At-Large Representative and now as Vice President of Staff Development. I am particularly proud to be involved in the return of our annual Region conference this June. Additionally, I have been actively involved with the Diablo Managers Association (DMA) Charter Board for many years and currently serve as the President of my charter.

With 17 years of experience as an administrator in middle schools, high schools, alternative education, and the central office, I have gained a deep understanding of the vital role strong, dedicated leadership plays in student success. I currently serve as the Assistant Director of Educational Services in Mt. Diablo USD, a role that has broadened my ability to support site administrators. I believe in leadership as service—prioritizing student needs, building relationships, listening more than responding, and approaching all situations with love and compassion. I am committed to the continuous reflection and improvement of my own practice. Each day, I strive to bring positivity and sunshine to my work, celebrating the bright spots and successes along the way, and uplifting everyone I encounter.

I deeply value ACSA's dedication to advocating for students, promoting equity, and providing high-quality professional development to build our capacity as leaders. As a member of the Region 6 Executive Committee, I have contributed to exploring innovative ways to support our ACSA members as we reimagine and redesign our school systems for the success of all students. It would be an honor to serve as your President Elect and continue this important work for our Region.

Vice President, Legislative Action

I am honored to run for Vice President of Legislative Action, bringing with me a decade of experience as a high school principal—first at Ygnacio Valley High School and now at Liberty High School. Throughout my career, I have been committed to advocating for students, staff, and communities, ensuring that our schools receive the resources and support necessary for success.

With the current indecision surrounding government support for public education, I believe now more than ever, we need strong, proactive leadership. If elected, my number one objective will be to ensure that our collective voice is heard loud and clear in Sacramento. I will work to synthesize actions at both the state and federal levels, ensuring that decisions made in Washington and Sacramento positively impact our schools and communities.

I am passionate about public education and dedicated to making sure policymakers understand the real challenges we face. Together, we can drive meaningful change and secure the support our students and educators deserve. I would be honored to have your support in this critical work.

Vice President, Membership

I am excited about the opportunity to serve on the Region 6 ACSA Board as Vice President of Membership. As a member of the Region 6 Executive Committee and Delta Charter, I have been engaged and learning about ways to strengthen our ACSA community and explore member opportunities. Collectively, we can do so much on behalf of the students we serve.

I believe leadership is an act of service—one that prioritizes student needs, fosters meaningful relationships, values listening and approaches challenges with love, compassion, and a commitment to continuous improvement.



Efa Huckaby
Principal
Liberty High School
Liberty UHSD



Erin Roberts
Assistant Superintendent,
HR

I value ACSA's dedication to advocacy, equity, and support. It would be an honor to lead our region's membership efforts.

Vice President, Staff Development



Hong Nguyen

Director of Educational
Equity
San Ramon Valley USD

I bring over 20 years of experience in public education as a teacher, instructional coach, assistant principal, and principal. I hold a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership for Change from Fielding Graduate University, along with advanced degrees and credentials from Santa Clara University, the University of California, Davis, and the University of California, Berkeley.

As a visionary leader dedicated to equity and inclusion, I break down systemic barriers to create learning environments where every student thrives. By centering student voice and leading professional development in restorative justice, courageous conversations, implicit bias, MTSS, and diversifying curriculum, I empower students and educators to shape equitable educational experiences.

An advocate for systemic change, I serve as the ACSA Region 6 Equity Chair, collaborating with regional and state leaders to advance educational equity. I have completed the ACSA Equity Administrators Academy and will be completing the C&I Instructional Leaders Academy in April. In addition, I have attended and presented at a number of ACSA conferences.

I am dedicated to leading with integrity, fostering meaningful change, and championing equity in all aspects of my work. It would be an honor to serve on the Region 6 Executive Board as Vice President of Staff Development, where I can continue to support and empower educational leaders in their growth and impact.

Vice President, Programs



Paulette Smith

Principal
James Madison
Elementary
San Leandro USD

I am Paulette Smith, Principal of James Madison Elementary in San Leandro Unified and a dedicated ACSA member for over a decade. My leadership is grounded in equity, inclusion, and a deep commitment to student success.

As Vice President of Programs for ACSA Region 6, I have been honored to recognize and celebrate the outstanding leaders shaping the future of education. I am committed to ensuring our awards process reflects the diverse and transformative impact of administrators across our region.

Together, we can continue to uplift and celebrate the exceptional leadership that drives positive change in our schools and communities.



Valerie Nebo

Principal
Arroyo Seco Elementary
Livermore Valley JUSD

Secretary

I would be honored to serve as ACSA Region 6 Secretary. I have nine years of administration experience including Elementary School Principal, Middle School Vice Principal, and High School Vice Principal. I have also served on our school district's MTSS committee, LCAP Steering Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee.

My ACSA membership began with my first administrative assignment in 2016. During my time in ACSA, I have participated in the Livermore Charter as middle school representative, two terms as ACSA Charter President for the Livermore Management Association, and currently as elementary school representative. I have presented at the Region 6 Equity Summit and have participated in both Leadership and Region Summits.

ACSA provides me a unique opportunity to network with colleagues from the region and throughout the state, provides access to resources that sustain my commitment to student equity, and provides unparalleled professional learning that is timely, appropriate, and applicable in all of the roles I have held and to which I aspire. The partnerships formed among and collective voice of ACSA members provides strength and sustenance to do the work of advocating for all students. Together, we can more effectively assure the needs of our students, families, staff, and communities are served in the interest of excellence in education.

At-Large Representative (Alameda County)

My name is Nia Rashidchi, and I have proudly been a dedicated member of ACSA since 2001 (over 24 years of active engagement and leadership). Throughout my journey with ACSA, I have served as the Region 6 C & I Council Rep for ACSA and R6 Board of Directors, been a repeat member of the Region 6 Administrator of the Year (AOY) Selection Committee, participated in numerous impactful professional development opportunities, and was recently honored with a nomination for the prestigious 2024 Marcus Foster Award.



Nia Rashidchi

Assistant Superintendent
of Educational Services
Castro Valley USD

My career in education spans more than three decades, during which I have worn many hats—each providing valuable experiences that shape my leadership today. I've had the privilege of being a classroom teacher, teacher on special assignment (TOSA), visiting educator, principal, coordinator of

state and federal programs, executive director, and associate superintendent. These diverse roles have deepened my understanding of the educational landscape and strengthened my commitment to fostering equitable learning environments.

In addition to my professional roles, I am in the final year of my doctoral journey at Cal State East Bay, pursuing a degree in Leadership for Social Justice. This program has further fueled my passion for equity-centered education and reinforced my belief in the transformative power of inclusive leadership. I am driven by a commitment to continuous learning, staying curious, and fostering meaningful collaboration with all members of the educational community. One of my guiding principles is that deep listening—what I consider a superpower—must be practiced daily to truly understand and meet the needs of a diverse community.

I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve as the Region 6 At-Large Representative for Alameda County. With a heart for service, a wealth of experience, and a strong dedication to equity and excellence, I am confident that I can be a valuable advocate and contributor to the Region 6 Executive Committee. It would be an honor to represent our region, amplifying voices, fostering connections, and supporting initiatives that empower educators and students alike.

At-Large Representative (Contra Costa County)

My connection with ACSA began in 2009 during my administrative credentialing program, and I'm currently privileged to serve as a Region 6 At-Large Representative. This past year has provided invaluable experience, allowing me to fully appreciate ACSA's impact on the students, families, educators, and school districts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

My 30-year journey in education started in the classroom as a 6th-grade math teacher. These years were filled with insightful collaboration among colleagues and the joy of educating and learning from bright students. All of which drawing me to conclude that true teaching occurs when learning takes place. My administrative experience includes 11 years in Mt. Diablo Unified, five as principal of Mt. Diablo High School, and I currently serve as Director of Pupil Services for the Moraga School District.

ACSA has consistently provided exceptional



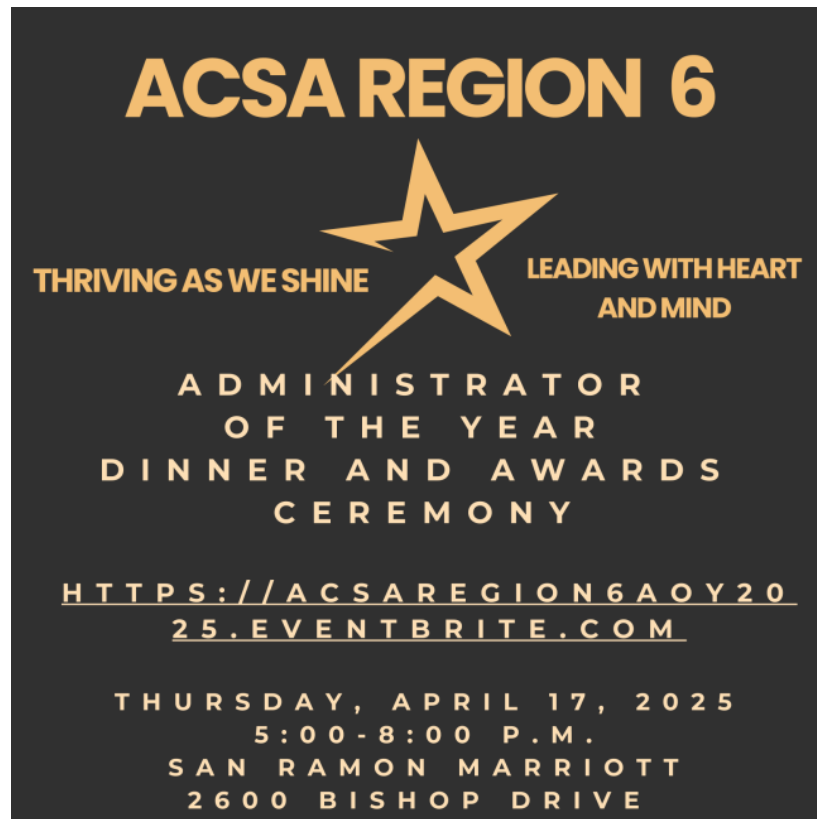
Lorne Barbosa
Director of Pupil Services
Moraga School District

professional development opportunities, from "Thriving on a Vine" to "Every Child Counts," with countless educators benefiting, myself included. I'm enthusiastic about the possibility of serving as a Region 6 At-Large Board member and contributing to ACSA's continued success in supporting our educational community.



ACSA Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards 2025 Celebration

Tickets now on sale



Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Celebration

Join us in celebrating all of our 2025 AOY nominees and winners
(list can be found on our [website](https://acsaregion6aoy2025.eventbrite.com))

Thursday, April 17, 2025
San Ramon Marriott

5:00 - 6:00 pm Cocktail hour (1 complimentary beer, wine, or soda)
Featuring music by students

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

Register on [Eventbrite](#) until April 3, 2025

Thank you to the Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Committee!
27 Region 6 members volunteered to review the 84 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.

Committee members represented many charters and districts in the region: Paulette Smith, Pam VandeKamp, Pam Hughes, Lorianne Ventura, Janet Gates, Nanette Gray, Nia Rashidchi, Dustin Gacherieu, Erin Roberts, Matt Chamberlain, Crystal Castaneda, Annabel Hurlburt, Evan Powell, Christina Filios, Brian Scharmann, Jeremy Vilkins, Mikey McKelvey, Rami Muth, Richard Lloyd, James Parrish, Tess Johnson, Nikki Washington, Bethanee Witczak, Valerie Nebo, Farnaz Heydari, Kathy LaCome, and Natalie Valencia.

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 on April 21.

[DOWNLOAD FLYER HERE AND SPREAD THE WORD!](#)



Sign up for texts from Region 6

[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: Matt Chamberlain

President-Elect: Lorianne Ventura

Past President: Jacob Berg

VP, Staff Development: Christina Filios

VP, Programs: Paulette Smith

VP, Legislative Action: Kathy LaCome

VP, Membership: Harvey Yurkovich

Secretary: Janet Gates

Treasurer: Matthew Fielder

Equity Chair: Hong Nguyen

Communication Chair: Pam VandeKamp

ACSA Board Director: Raul Zamora

At-Large Representatives: Lorne Barbosa, Erin

Roberts, Efa Huckaby, Lynn Mackey

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.

ACSA Region 6 | 77 Santa Barbara Road | Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)