



# Advance Newsletter

association of california  
school administrators

region 6

May 2025

## President's Message



### ***Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind***

Dear Region 6 Colleagues,

As we bring another remarkable year to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared accomplishments, express my deep appreciation for your dedication, and look ahead with optimism and excitement to the 2025–2026 school year.

Our theme this year, ***“Courageous Leadership: Leading with Heart and Mind,”*** provided a meaningful framework for our work. It reminded us to lead with empathy, act with conviction, and center our decisions on the well-being of our students, staff, and communities. It challenged us to be bold, intentional, and unwavering in our pursuit of equity and excellence.

I am incredibly proud of all we accomplished together during the 2024–2025 school year. From our fun networking socials and impactful Region Mini Academy’s for principals and co-administrators to our continued legislative advocacy in Sacramento, your engagement has been inspiring. We successfully co-hosted the ACSA Equity Institute with Regions 5 and 8, and launched a spirited Charter competition. Through outreach efforts—surveys, newsletters, and an enhanced social media presence—we’ve expanded the reach and impact of ACSA and strengthened our Region 6 community.

The 53rd Region 6 Awards Night was a powerful celebration of leadership excellence across Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Congratulations to all our nominees and honorees—you exemplify the strength, talent, and heart of our organization.

I’m especially excited to invite you to our upcoming Region 6 Conference – ***“Thriving as we Shine”*** - on June 12th. Professional learning continues to be a high priority for Region 6. This one-day conference will be a wonderful opportunity to connect, network and be inspired by the leadership and passion of our

homegrown presenters. Space is filling up fast, so sign-up today!

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acsa-region-6-2025-annual-conference-registration-1288901512119?aff=oddtcreator>

Also, State ACSA just published the 2025-2026 professional development events - Academy schedules, Personnel Bootcamp, Women's Leadership Forum, Symposium dates, and Leadership Summit information. Please check the email from ACSA for more info. If you didn't receive the email, reach out and we can send it to you.

To our outgoing 2024–2025 Region Executive Board: a sincere thank you for your unwavering commitment and thoughtful leadership. It has been a privilege to work alongside you. And to our incoming 2025–2026 Executive Board: I look forward to your bold, courageous, and heartfelt leadership in the year ahead.

As we move forward, let's carry the energy and spirit of this year into the next—strategically, compassionately, and always with our scholars and communities at the heart of everything we do.

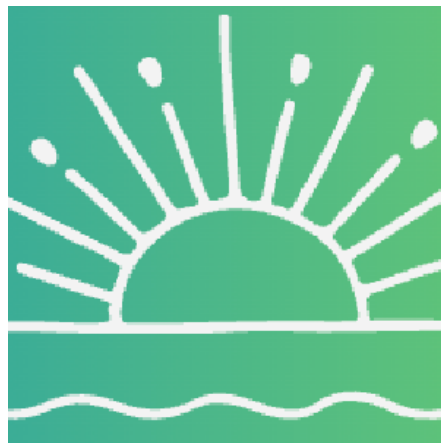
Onward,  
Matt

[Matt Chamberlain](#)  
Region 6 President (24-25)



## Region 6 Annual Conference Returns June 12, 2025 Double Tree Pleasanton

**Registration closes on June 2**



## ACSA Region 6 Annual Conference

***THRIVING AS WE SHINE***  
***Leading with Heart and Mind***

Thursday, June 12, 2025  
8:00 - 4:00 pm  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Pleasanton

\$95

Register on [Eventbrite](#)

### Conference Schedule

**7:30 - 8:45 am** Region 6 Superintendents Pre-Conference Breakfast

**8:00 am** General Registration and Breakfast

**9:00 am** Welcome by Matt Chamberlain, Region 6 President  
Keynote Speaker Dr. Patricia Brent-Sanco

**10:00 am** Affinity Partners Panel, Moderated by Superintendent Parvin Ahmadi

Panelists:

Dr. Adam Clark, CAAASA President

Dr. Juan Santos, CALSA President-Elect

Dr. Shana Henry, CAAPLE President

Patrick Hansen-Schmitt, Castro Valley USD Principal

**11:00 am** Breakout session #1

**11:50 am** Breakout session #2

**12:35 pm** Lunch

**1:15 pm** Wellness Activity

**1:30 pm** Breakout session #3

**2:20 pm** Job-Alike Session

**3:10 pm** Break

**3:20 pm** Closing Keynote Superintendent Daryl Camp  
Prizes Donated by Region 6 Partners (Must be present to win)

**4:00 pm** Social Hour, no host bar and hors d'oeuvres complimentary

**If you have already registered, download the Sched App from your app store for the entire conference schedule and directory of speakers.**



## Region 6 Student Awards Reception

We celebrated our student scholarship recipients and Every Student Succeeding winner and finalists on April 27, 2025. Our region awarded \$2000 scholarships to ten students. At the dinner reception, the parents of our scholarship recipients introduced their children and shared how proud they are of them.

We also recognized Mathys Joseph as the R6 Every Student Succeeding Winner who received a \$1000 award along with 3 finalists each receiving \$250 award. Congratulations to this amazing group of students!

Look for applications for 2025-26 on Region 6 website in August.



## Retiring or Know Someone Who is? Read this



Attention administrators and classified managers! Are you retiring, planning to, or know someone who is? Even if you have been an ACSA member, you must re-apply for the Retired Membership which can be done on the ACSA website at <https://acsa.org/index.php/join>. Check out all the benefits for either the Retired or Emeritus membership.

As a retiree ACSA member, you will be part of the 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 work 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. Statewide, our retired ACSA members were influential in the recent repeal of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) after many years of persistent advocacy.

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 [rlock@acsa.org](mailto:rlock@acsa.org).

*Did you know? If you become an Emeritus member, one of many benefits is free registration at the annual ACSA Leadership Summit (every year). That in itself makes your dues worthwhile!*

Download this letter [here](#) and share it.



# ACSA Administrator of the Year Awards 2025

## Honoring Courageous Leadership

On Thursday, April 17, we celebrated the 53rd ACSA Region 6 Awards Night to highlight the excellence, dedication, and the quiet superpowers that define educational leadership in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The event honored visionaries, tireless advocates, and everyday heroes—those who have transformed schools into places of hope, growth, and opportunity. Guests celebrated the remarkable work of colleagues across Region 6.

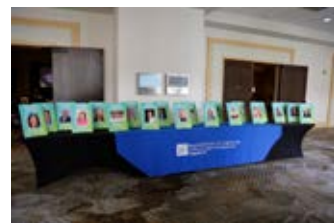
The night also offered a moment to reflect on the collective impact of educators throughout the region. The honorees were champions of diversity, equity, and inclusion—not just in principle, but through tangible, boots-on-the-ground work that has changed lives every single day. We recognized Parvin Ahmadi for her tenure as Superintendent of Castro Valley USD and her relentless work as a Region 6 leader and as ACSA State President, a career that has been steadfast towards equity and excellence for ALL Children.



Celebrating over 80 Region 6 Administrators of the Year



Members, friends, family gathering at the pre-dinner reception



R6 Partner Shoob Photography provided posters of all our R6 winners



Over 300 guests attending the April 17 Region 6 Administrator of the Year Awards Dinner in San Ramon



R6 President Matt Chamberlain welcoming our attendees and congratulating all of our honorees



R6 Vice President of Programs and MC of the Awards Ceremony extending her welcome



Alameda County Office of Education Superintendent Alysse Castro presenting the first two awards of the evening



Region 6 honors Parvin Ahmadi for her many years of service and ACSA leadership



Outgoing R6 Board of Directors recognized for their leadership





An outstanding group of Secondary Principal nominees with R6 winner Demetrius Ball



R6 Elementary Principal of the Year, Paulette Smith, being honored with a talented group of fellow nominees



Here are your R6 nominees for Student Services Administrator of the Year with winner Felicia Stuckey-Smith



Executive Director Rose Lock presenting the Friend of Region 6 Award to Rob Villano and Kathy Yokoi of Lifetouch who has partnered with R6 for nearly 30 years



R6 Consultant Steve Collins presenting the Friend of Region 6 Award to Shoob Photography for more than 10 years of sponsorship



We are so proud of R6's nominees for Central Office of the Year shown here with R6 winner Hong Nguyen



Annette Heldman who held many leadership positions in R6 over the years was selected for the Region 6 Frank Wells President Award



Pam VandeKamp was presented the Region 6 Nels Nelson Award by our 2024 recipient Daryl Camp



Thank you to many region superintendents for attending this celebration to support their district's honorees

## State ACSA Administrator of the Year 2025



We are proud to share that Sherry Strausbaugh was selected as the ACSA Middle Grades Principal of the Year. Sherry is the Principal of Thornton Middle School in the Fremont Unified School District.

ACSA Administrator of the Year awards in 21 categories and five special awards are given to outstanding educational leaders and a partnership program.

Recipients will be featured in EdCal beginning in June and honored at the leadership Summit Statewide Awards Ceremony on November 7 in San Francisco.

Congratulations to Sherry!



# Region 6 Member Survey 2025-26

You probably received an email from our Region 6 President Matt Chamberlain about a week ago.

*"The Region 6 Executive Committee is currently planning for the upcoming year, and we need your feedback to guide our decisions and priorities. Please take a few minutes to complete the Google Form Survey linked below."*

**Deadline: Friday, June 6, 2025**

*We are counting on full participation to ensure your voice is heard and reflected in our planning efforts.*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeD09eGqRi0zyK9fOK3phvbom968yKfz42J-I9scRXMVHtV7w/viewform?usp=header>

*Thank you for your time and continued commitment to Region 6."*



## ACSA Leadership Assembly

The final governance meeting of the year was held on May 8 in Burbank.



R6's Daryl Camp addressing delegates after being sworn in as the next ACSA President



Newly installed ACSA officers:  
Daryl Camp, Rene Rickard,  
Rafael Plascencia, Roxane  
Fuentes, Jared Hungerford



Delegation representing Region 6  
at recent Leadership Assembly



R6 President Matt Chamberlain  
being recognized by ACSA Ex  
Director Edgar Zazueta



Kathy LaCome receiving award  
as R6's outgoing VP Legislative  
At



Daryl Camp getting a pat on the  
back by an ACSA leader



## Region 6 Professional Learning

## Job Alike Academies

Region 6 piloted two mini-academies this year for principals and co-administrators. Some of the participants were veterans in their position and modeled there's always more to learn. Each mini-academy held 5 sessions with virtual and in-person formats. Look for future Region 6 opportunities to participate in professional learning and networking. Region 6 places high priority in supporting our site administrators.

## ACSA Equity Institute

For the past two years, Region 6 collaborated with Regions 5 and 8 in hosting the Bay Area Equity Symposium. This year, ACSA held its statewide Equity Institute in Berkeley on March 12-14 and presented an opportunity for the three regions to join forces with ACSA on an outstanding conference.

What an amazing and inspiring slate of speakers that included Drs. Cherina Betters, Vajra Watson and Joaquin Noguera. Amidst attacks on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs across the country and in schools, it was an opportune time to engage in discussion of inclusivity, resistance, curriculum and other topics. Sessions included topics addressing implicit bias, administrator wellness and asset-based practice

## Region 6 Annual Conference - "Thriving as We Shine"

Last held in 2019, the Region 6 Annual Conference is returning on Thursday, June 12 from 8:00 - 4:00. With the support of our region partners, the registration for this all day event is \$95. Outstanding presenters, breakfast, lunch, snack, social reception!



Congratulations to this group of R6 principals who completed the Job-Alike Mini-Academy. Here they are with Dr. David Franklin, academy facilitator and author of *5 Pillars of School Leadership*



"Graduates" of our Job-Alike Mini-Academy for Co-administrators here with Dr. Cynthia Rapaido, academy facilitator and author of *Step Up Your Leadership Game*



Region 6 showed up at the ACSA Equity Institute on March 12-14 in Berkeley.





## Retirees Continue to Learn

Charter meets 3X a Year



Anthony Robinson, ACSA Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, was the guest speaker at the May 13 luncheon meeting.



A big shout out to this group of San Lorenzo USD retirees still committed to ACSA, learning and socializing with former colleagues

The Region 6 Retiree Charter has over 250 members. It has a very engaged Executive Board who planned luncheon meetings 3 times a year. 30-40 members regularly attend to keep up with CA educational landscape, reconnect and renew professional friendships. Always a fun way to spend an afternoon. Want to make sure you are receiving periodic news, contact Charter Secretary Pam VandeKamp at [drpam@thevdk.com](mailto:drpam@thevdk.com)



## Region 6 Members Showing Up ACSA Legislative Action Days - March 17-18



Nearly 300 ACSA members from all over CA descended on Sacramento



Your Region 6 delegation are ready to go for a day in the Capitol



A team of R6 delegates planning their visits with legislators



Another team discussing strategies in presenting the need



Veteran LAD delegate David Thornley leading his team in



## From Your Region Executive Director

### ***End of the Year Reflection and Always Looking Forward...***

The end of the school year has always brought the opportunity for reflection for me even in retirement. Hard to believe that I am coming up on 10 years since my "retirement"! At the recent ACSA Leadership Assembly, I was reminded how blessed I am still able to work with all the incredible leaders in the ACSA environment, locally and across our state.

Region 6's own Dr. Daryl Camp was installed as the new ACSA President by Dr. Odie Douglas who spoke about our incoming president's track record of servant leadership. Parvin Ahmadi was recognized for her exemplary leadership in ACSA as she retires as Superintendent of Castro Valley Unified. They are two of the finest educational leaders among many who serve tirelessly their community and profession. I feel so hopeful that there are so many more leaders in our region and in our state doing the "right" work and continuing to make a difference with courage and passion.

I became a member of ACSA in 1989 while I was a student at UC Berkeley's Administrative Credential Program. When I got my first admin position as a vice principal in Mt Diablo USD the following year, I was asked by a veteran colleague to serve as a rep on our management association board. Thus began my journey as an ACSA leader. Many of us have a similar story. Someone taps us on the shoulder and gave us the confidence to "step up." Leadership is about service and about making a difference.

If you are interested in "stepping up," get involved in your local charters, attend networking socials, professional learning activities and conferences. As leaders, we also have the responsibility to tap someone on their shoulder, bring along a colleague or friend to an ACSA event, nominate a deserving administrator for an award. We are all in the ACSA community, an association for those who have dedicated our career to this profession.

Congratulations and appreciations to these ACSA members who have stepped up to lead our 19 charters (40 districts) in Region 6!

#### **Region 6 Charter Presidents:**

- Alameda - Kirstin Snyder
- ACOE - TBD
- Amador Valley - Melanie Harris
- Castro Valley - Kevin Baker
- Delta - Crystal Castaneda
- Diablo Valley - Annabel Hurlburt
- DMA - Jenny Vargas
- Fremont - Elie Wasser
- Hayward - Monique Walton
- Livermore - Jeremy Vilkins
- New Haven - Ramon Camacho
- North Alameda - TBD
- Newark - Kristi Palomino
- San Leandro - Paulette Smith
- San Lorenzo - Kathy LaCome
- RASA - Farnaz Heydari
- Retirees - Phyllis Hamilton

I look forward to working with all of our returning and incoming Region 6 leadership under the presidency of Dr. Lorianne Ventura, Director of Curriculum in Dublin Unified School District. Lori has dedicated many years of service to our region and a true ACSA champion!

Hope you will all take some time in the next few weeks for yourself! Onward to 2

Rose



## Welcome to New ACSA Members



Region 6 welcomes the following new members in February, March:

**Acalanes UHSD**

Brianna Shahvar

**Alameda COE**

Lara Burenin

**Antioch USD**

Kendra Ebinger, Carolyn Taylor, Jaguanana Lathan,

**Emery USD**

Marcia Parham, Duana Brown

**Mt, Diablo USD**

Raquel Chiasson, Shawn Carman

**Oakland USD**

Ahmad Hameed

**Piedmont USD**

Kimberly Randlett

**Walnut Creek SD**

Pamela Davis, Amanda MInnich

**West Contra Costa USD**

Arthur Harris

**Retired**

Cardenas Shackelford

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

Tracy Burns, Lindsay Wisely, Rose Lock, Chris Clausen, Rose Bright, Cheryl Hazell-Small





### DIAMOND PARTNERS

Right At School and Curriculum Associates have been tremendous partners with Region 6. They were recognized at our April 18 Region 6 Awards Dinner. Cindy Lawson, Vice President for Right At School and Kenzi Murray, Educational Consultant at Curriculum Associates posed with R6 Leaders Lori Ventura, Paulette Smith, and Matt Chamberlain.



### Golden State Kids Deserve Golden Opportunities

At Right At School, we believe every student deserves enriching, joyful experiences before, during, and after the school day. We're proud to partner with districts across the state to make that vision a reality. We're not just an after school provider, we're a trusted education partner that works alongside schools to deliver out of school time solutions that are turn-key, cost-effective, and deeply aligned with each district's unique goals and community needs. Whether your district is looking to expand access to meaningful enrichment, or support working families with consistent care during school breaks, Right At School is here to help! Our curriculum is built to excite kids and reassure parents, offering everything from STEM and art to homework help and fitness, all rooted in California's education priorities and cultural vibrancy. We handle everything from staffing to compliance, making implementation effortless for school leaders. We're already making an impact across California, and we'd love to explore how we can serve your school community!

Ready to learn, play and grow with us? Visit [rightatschool.com/ras-and-elop](https://rightatschool.com/ras-and-elop) to learn more and connect with our California partnership team. Let's build something amazing-together!



[i-Ready](#) is used by over 13 million students nationwide, including more than 2 million in California. The data it provides links directly to teacher tools and [automatically assigns lessons](#) to students based on their individual needs. This fall, i-Ready will introduce the Evaluación diagnóstica de lectura en español—a new adaptive reading assessment for



grades K–6 that helps educators understand how Spanish-speaking students are progressing toward grade-level expectations. With a strong research foundation and [a proven connection to CAASPP](#), i-Ready gives educators the information they need to guide instruction and support every learner.

We are grateful to all our Partners for their continuing support of our region's programs in 2024-25. Our partners' sponsorships allow us to offer high quality professional development and other 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](#).

 RIGHT AT SCHOOL	 ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION <i>Alyssa Castro, Superintendent</i>	 SPG THERAPY & EDUCATION
 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Office of Education <i>learn • lead • achieve</i> Lynn Mackey, Superintendent of Schools	 elevo ENGAGE. INSPIRE. THRIVE.	 Keenan Associates
 LEGO education	 aa/rr Atkinson, Andelson Loya, Ruud & Romo	 Curriculum Associates
 TEACHER'S PENSION	 McGraw Hill Achieve3000	 Capturing Kids' Hearts <small>Powered by i-Ready Group</small>
 6crickets <i>Expanded Learning Management Solutions</i>	 EQUITABLE ADVISORS	 Lakeshore®
 California Casualty Auto and Home Insurance	 TRI TRI Group, Inc.	 REACH UNIVERSITY
 SCHOLASTIC	 e	 LS LozanoSmith ATTORNEYS AT LAW
 FranklinCovey Education	 SHOOB photography	 Lifetouch®



Sign up for text from Region 6

#### [Contact Us](#)

We welcome your feedback and suggestions.

[ACSA Website](#)  
[Region 6 Website](#)

#### **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

**Region 6 Staff**

[Rose Lock](#), Executive Director

[Steve Collins](#), Consultant

VP, Membership: Harvey Yurkovich

Secretary: Janet Gates

Treasurer: Suzy Chan

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.

Visit our Website

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

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