

# Association of California School Administrators



Fall/Winter 2021

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Ramona Soto-Barajas - 2021-2022 President, ACSA Region 7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our Region administrators continue to lead their schools with strength through the start of school year with very different scenarios than in the past to continue to provide a safe school for students and staff. They continue to face the every-day challenges with the pandemic and providing full time instruction for our students and offer our community opportunities to be engaged in creative ways. The collaboration and teamwork that has taken place across our charters has been amazing! Professional Learning opportunities have taken place across the charters virtually allowing all of our members to participate. In these times, the value of working together has proven to be the most effective to be successful. We are in this together and will succeed working together.

Our Region had a strong start with an in-person Leadership Training that took place in early July. We also held our first General Membership Assembly at the Golf Club at Copper Valley with guest speaker Charlie Hoffman, State ACSA President. It has been great to see you in person for our events. We look forward to seeing you at our next GMA taking place at Dave Wong's in Stockton on February 2, 2022.

State ACSA has been extremely resourceful in providing resources for our Region. They have provided timely and helpful information this school year when we faced new regulations and procedures to implement – many which we have never experienced. The Legislative Lunch Breaks have opportunities for all of us to learn and be informed.

We are very fortunate to have such a strong Region. I want to personally thank all our charter presidents for inviting our region members to their professional learning opportunities and keeping us informed of their important events and information. Working together has helped us stay strong. Keep up the good work and I hope to see you all very soon.



## ACSA is celebrating its 50th year!

Administrators in California had long talked of forming an umbrella organization that encompassed their varied professional functions. Formed in July, 1971, ACSA became the first operative united administrator organization in the nation. Please join us at our Annual Spring Conference in South Lake Tahoe, May 6-8, and help us celebrate ACSA's 50th! The Conference Committee has been hard at work planning for an outstanding conference. More information regarding the conference will come your way in the next several weeks. The Lake Tahoe Resort is now taking room reservations for our conference:

**Online:** [www.tahoeresorthotel.com](http://www.tahoeresorthotel.com), Group Code: ACSA22

**Call:** 530-544-5400

**Direct link:** <https://reservations.travelclick.com/113890?groupID=3220997>



“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.”

Be sure to visit our website (<http://regions.acsa.org/7/>) and stay up-to-date on Region 7 and Charter events as well as committee and council reports and more!

# REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

## Mother Lode Charter

The Mother Lode Charter had its Kick-Off event on September 10th at Renegade Winery. Beverages and appetizers were provided. It was wonderful bringing colleagues together to celebrate the start of the school year. The charter's Fall PDP was held on October 21st. Our guest speaker was Adonai Mack, State ACSA Senior Director, Equity and Diversity, who talked about "Equity in the Context of Critical Race Theory." Members from other charters joined in the virtual PDP. The charter's Winter Social is scheduled for December 3rd at Renegade Winery. Our upcoming Every Student Succeeding breakfasts are scheduled for February 10th (Amador) at Mel's Diner in Jackson and February 17th (Calaveras) at the CRA Gym.

Karen Vail will be stepping in as the new charter President and Jared Hungerford will move to President-Elect following the resignation of Andria Tiquet. A special thank you to Andria for her service and leadership as charter President for the last year and a half.

## Retired (RAC) Charter

by Cindy Murray  
RAC Charter President

Welcome to Fall! I hope this finds all of you happy and healthy. The Retired Administrator's Charter (RAC) has been busy! We have had two monthly meetings and have planned a couple of social events. In the Spring, we had a committee that worked on a revision for the rubric used to evaluate Every Student Succeeding (ESS) applications. In October, the draft of the revised rubric was provided to the Region 7 General Assembly for Input. We are awaiting approval and/or revision suggestions. Our first Social Event was held on October 7th where a group of retirees went wine tasting in Lodi. We tasted wonderful wines at Van Ruiten Family Winery and Oak Ridge Winery and had a great time socializing with each other.

We are looking forward to our next social event on December 9th. We will be having dinner at Domo's in Stockton and then attending "A Christmas Story" at the Stockton Civic Theater. We also have plans to attend "Game Show" at the Stockton Civic Theater on February 10, 2022. Our monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Our December 7th meeting will be at 11:30 at Spring Creek Golf and Country Club in Ripon. We are arranging guest speakers for all of our meetings. Our guest speaker for December is Denise Wickham, Superintendent of Ceres Unified School District. We invite all Retired Administrators of Region 7 to join us for our meetings and our Social events.

## Stanislaus Charter

by Kelene Blevins  
Stanislaus Charter President

Stanislaus ACSA charter's first September Breakfast meeting was a huge success. We had 99 attend our virtual meeting and listen to our speaker: Naj Alikhan, Senior Director, Marketing & Communication for ACSA. Our October Breakfast meeting featured Dr. Kristi Britton who spoke about "Work Life Balance!" We are excited to announce that Jose Sanchez is joining our charter as our Vice President. Our current plans are to have virtual meetings through December and then possibly consider a Hybrid (virtual/in-person) Breakfast meetings if we can keep our membership healthy and safe.

## San Joaquin Charter

by Travis Manley  
San Joaquin Charter President

We held our Fall PD featuring Leaders4ward, speaking on "The Power of Building Team Culture in Changing Times." Leaders4ward features four past or current Superintendents from around the area. This follows up our well-attended Kick-Off event at the Boathouse. During our kick-off, we were able to hear from Edgar Zazueta, the Senior Director +of Policy and Governmental Relations. Edgar did a great job speaking to our members on issues related to the pandemic, staff shortages, and substitute shortages, amongst other topics. We are also busy planning our Every Student Succeeding event, H.E.R.O.E.S. Heather Sharp, the President-Elect, has sent out information to our members, and we are eagerly anticipating some great entries!

## Tuolumne Charter

by Michael Merrill  
Tuolumne Charter President

The Tuolumne Charter of ACSA has been busy planning for the 2021-2022 school year. We were able to meet in person for our Charter Kick-Off event on August 13th at El Jardin in Sonora. It was great to see many of our ACSA colleagues from our local districts, but also wonderful to have Mary Ann Sanders and Deb Rowe with us.

We have postponed our Tuolumne Administrative Assistants Dinner until after the first of the year in hopes that we can meet in person. We are also planning our Every Student Succeeding Breakfast for February 11th.

Our first PDP was held on November 4th and we had two speakers presenting on "Self Care for Administrators," but it could just as well been for all educational staff. Many thanks to our partners in Stanislaus for inviting our charter to their PDP via zoom in October.

# Why ACSA?

I became an ACSA member in 2005 when I joined the Ceres Unified School District. In my years of being an ACSA member, I have always been part of my local ACSA charter, Region leadership and State committees. The greatest benefit from ACSA is the relationships that have been formed with many outstanding leaders throughout Region 7 and the state. Job-alike activities have always supported me in any of the positions I have been in over the years. ACSA has been the organization that has brought us all together to amplify our voices with other inspiring leaders throughout our state.

In serving on various ACSA Charter, Region and state committees, I have developed a strong relationship with our ACSA Governmental Relations team who are consistently responsive to questions and challenges that face educational leaders, especially this past year. I found myself relying on the ACSA Legislative Lunch breaks each week to have up to date information I could provide to my district and staff. ACSA has helped me develop as a leader and has supported me with connecting with others. As I have begun my new position as Assistant Superintendent in Stanislaus Union School District, I have been reaching out even more as I navigate through this challenging year.



**Jennifer Backman**  
**Assistant Superintendent**  
**of Student Services**  
**Stanislaus Union School**  
**District**

## Early Education Council Established

ACSA has a new council this year. The Early Education Council is devoted to improving learning outcomes in the lives of young children (birth to 5 years old) to transition to kindergarten with essential skills as they continue their successful educational trajectory. The ACSA State Board approved the creation of the council based on the rationale that Early Education has its own diverse needs and learning outcomes that are significantly different from the needs of Elementary. This is an opportunity for Early Education administrators to have a voice and to build a network that will address the developmental, social-emotional and skill set needs of our youngest learners while also obtaining quality professional development. The council is committed and takes on the responsibility of serving a diverse cultural and linguistic needs of students and their families. The council will focus on crucial standards such as developmental milestones; social and emotional learning; cognitive and physical skills; high quality professional development for Early Education administrators; and parental and community engagement. Region 7's representative to the Early Education Council is Heidi Nunes, Senior Director, Early Childhood Education for Modesto City Schools. Heidi can be reached at: [nunes.h@monet.k12.ca.us](mailto:nunes.h@monet.k12.ca.us).



**Heidi Nunes**  
**Senior Director**  
**Early Childhood Education**  
**Modesto City Schools**

### Partnerships

Region 7 prides itself on establishing an ongoing, working relationship with all corporate partners. ACSA Region 7 welcomes two new esteemed corporate partners to the ACSA family. Thank you for your support.



**Changes to your work site, title, contact information or personal information?** Please login to your Member Profile by visiting [www.acsa.org](http://www.acsa.org). Your ACSA preferred email address is your user name. Forgot your password? Please click on Forgot Password and instructions will be emailed to your preferred ACSA email address. Please take a moment to verify your contact information. If any corrections are required, you may update your information from your Member Profile or contact ACSA Member Services at [memberservices@acsa.org](mailto:memberservices@acsa.org).



## STATE ACSA 2021 AWARD WINNERS

### State ACSA Central Office Administrator of the Year

Dr. Amy Peterman's advocacy for educational quality and student achievement is recognized within and beyond the bounds of the Ceres Unified School District. In leading Ceres Unified's Educational Services division, she has focused on improving outcomes through academic rigor, the elimination of barriers, and college transition support. Dr. Peterman drew upon research in the areas of Professional Learning Communities and Response to Intervention to develop a District Roadmap. She assembled a taskforce and developed a new Framework for Learning focused on Context, Feedback and Content. Dr. Peterman also spearheaded the development of a user-friendly system of reporting and displaying the results. Through her dedication, Ceres Unified's Educational Service division is thriving, demonstrating a commitment to student achievement and growth. It is Dr. Peterman's leadership style of transparency, objectivity, and responsiveness to stakeholder input as well as focus on keeping student needs foremost has contributed to the success. Congratulations to Dr. Amy Peterman on being selected as State ACSA's Central Office Administrator of the Year. Dr. Peterman was recognized at the ACSA Leadership Summit in San Francisco in November.



### State ACSA Retired Administrator of the Year

After his retirement as Superintendent of the Big Oak Flat-Groveland School District in 2018, Dave has remained very active in the Tuolumne Charter of ACSA as the Vice-President of Programs, a position he has held for many years. He continues to attend 7 a.m. cabinet meetings and all other events and meetings coordinated through TCACSA. Dave coordinates the Administrative Assistants' Dinner, the ESS Breakfast and presentation, Employees Who Make a Difference, and the fall kick-off. His experience with and knowledge of organizing these events has made all of the programs run more smoothly and effectively to recognize students and staff. Dave has also formed strong and positive relationships with community organizations that help foster partnerships for local public education. In addition to his work with the Tuolumne Charter, Dave and his wife Teree founded WINGS Fund assisting families who have children hospitalized outside Tuolumne. WINGS has assisted 220 families with over \$140,000 in support. Dave was recognized at the Leadership Summit in November.



### State ACSA Professor of Education of the Year

Dr. Denise Wickham is State ACSA's Professor of Education of the Year. She was honored at the recent Leadership Summit in San Francisco. Dr. Wickham has served as an adjunct professor in the master's and doctoral Education Administration programs at CSU Stanislaus for the past 15 years. As the daughter of an immigrant parent, she is passionate about the opportunities education provides and committed to ensuring that graduate students seeking careers in educational leadership are well-equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to propel educational quality and student achievement. Dr. Wickham's role as an active practitioner in K-12 education yields insightful, real-world perspectives that are the fulcrum for meaningful discussions on equity and overcoming obstacles to learning that are prevalent in California's Central Valley. Believing fervently that education is a "people business," Dr. Wickham consistently demonstrates care and concern for the needs of others while modeling the highest standards of integrity. Her students report that she is professional and transparent in all interactions and well-prepared for each class, often finding imaginative ways to encourage and inspire them. Dr. Wickham's absolute commitment to student success is a driving factor behind the Ceres USD's reputation as a district that forgoes the easy path when a more innovative approach best serves students' interests. The same is true for her role as a professor, whether creatively addressing outreach and connectivity issues during virtual learning or seeking out strategies to keep learning fresh. Congratulations Dr. Denise Wickham and thank you for your commitment to education at all levels.



## SAN JOAQUIN FALL PDP

The San Joaquin Charter Fall PDP featured consultants from Leaders4ward speaking on “The Power of Building Team Culture in Changing Times.” Past and present superintendents Debra Hendricks, Shannon Sanford, Dr. Scott Siegel and Twila Tosh shared their expertise and experiences with charter members. Leaders 4Ward Consultants specialize in working with educational leaders in building culture during challenging times. Their genuine purpose is to use a multi-disciplinary approach and proven expertise to chart a course for their clients in becoming a stronger more aligned educational institution.

If you would like to receive a free consultation with a Leaders4Ward Consultant, please contact dhendricks@L4ward.com or call 209.499.2742.



L to R: Debra Hendricks, Consultant and Retired Superintendent of Sylvan Union SD; Shannon Sanford, Consultant and Superintendent of Stanislaus Union SD; Ramona Soto-Barajas, President ACSA Region 7; Dr. Scott Siegel, Consultant and Retired Superintendent of Ceres Unified SD; and Twila Tosh, Consultant and Superintendent of Salida Union SD.

### *Meet Your Legislative Action Committee Representative*

**Who:** Jared Hungerford  
**Job:** Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Adult Education  
 Calaveras County Office of Education

Jared is the Director of Curriculum & Instruction for the Calaveras County Office of Education. He manages the Adult Ed program, supports county districts with LCAP technical assistance and review, he is the ELPAC Coordinator, the California School Leadership Academy Regional Lead Facilitator, the Social-Emotional Learning Community of Practice Facilitator, and District CSI and DA support. He has been in education for 17 years.

Jared chose this profession after spending time in his mother’s classroom and watching her teach when his school had an in service day and her school didn’t. He also loves helping people.

Jared’s hobbies are hiking, reading and travelling. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his wife and kids outside or visiting some place new.

He earned a B.A. in Religious Studies from Whitworth College in Spokane, WA. and his M.A. in Educational Leadership from the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

**Something of interest:**

Jared spent a year in Peru as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar after college and began his teaching career at Lincoln High School in Stockton, his alma mater, and was mentored by colleagues that had been his teachers during his years in high school.



## Region 7 Welcomes New Members

### Mother Lode Charter

Carrie Foster, Asst. Principal, Amador County USD  
Kristina Smith, Foster Youth Services, Calaveras COE

### San Joaquin Charter

Danielle Daubin, Coordinator, Admin Svcs  
Lammersville USD

Bernadine Hill, Dir/Food Service, Lammersville USD  
Imedla Karim, Vice Principal, Lammersville USD  
Alvina Keyser, Dir/Fiscal Service, Lammersville USD  
Nancy Lane, Interim Asst. Superintendent, Stockton USD  
Jimmy Le Grande, Director MOT, Lammersville USD  
Dana Nance, Exec Assistant, San Joaquin COE  
Kamaljit Pannu, Vice Principal, Lammersville USD  
Karen Perez, Vice Principal, Lammersville USD  
Brian Schum, Associate Principal, Lammersville USD  
Sara Silva, Vice Principal, Lammersville USD  
Nicholas Watson, Information Tech Coordinator,  
Jefferson SD  
Shawn Yohannan, IT Director, Lammersville USD

### Stanislaus Charter

Lori Corral, Principal, Stanislaus Union SD  
Anna Haskel, Asst. Principal, Sylvan Union SD  
Kendall Hill, Vice Principal, Stanislaus Union SD  
Craig Redman, Asst. Superintendent, Human Resources  
Oakdale Jt. Unified SD  
Janelle Santos, Program Specialist, Ceres Unified SD  
Gilliam Wegener, Asst. Superintendent, C & I  
Oakdale Jt. Unified SD  
Melissa Xavier, Asst. Principal, Sylvan Union SD

A special thank you to ACSA recruiters Marilyn Croft  
and Dena Whittington !

## Looking Ahead

### December

- 3 Mother Lode Winter Social 4:30 p.m.  
Renegade Winery
- 7 RAC Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- 8 Stanislaus Charter Breakfast Mtg. - Virtual - 7:00 a.m.
- 9 RAC Social Event - Dinner & Play - 5:30 p.m.
- 15 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting - 8:15 a.m.

### January

- 11 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting 7 a.m.  
Award Nominations due to Region 11:59 p.m.
- 12 Region 7 Conference Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Region 7 Cabinet Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Mother Lode Charter Cabinet Meeting 7:30 a.m.
- 19 San Joaquin Board Meeting 8:15 a.m.  
Stanislaus Charter EMAD Event 4 p.m.
- 20 Award Nominations due to State ACSA 11:59 p.m.

### February

- 1 RAC Luncheon Meeting 11:30 a.m.
- 2 General Membership Assembly 4:30 p.m.  
Dave Wong's - Stockton
- 9 Stanislaus Charter Breakfast Meeting 7 a.m.

## Region 7 Officers 2021-2022

**PRESIDENT**  
Ramona Soto-Barajas  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
Jose Aldaco  
**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Deborah Rowe  
**TREASURER**  
Deborah Rowe

**VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS**  
Tami Garcia  
**VICE PRESIDENT, LEG. ACTION**  
Jared Hungerford  
**VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP**  
Kathy Griggs

**SECRETARY**  
Barbara Magpusao  
**PAST PRESIDENT**  
Mark Campbell  
**FACILITIES COORDINATOR**  
Claudia Vicino  
**REGION 7 CONSULTANT**  
Mary Ann Sanders

**STATE BOARD MEMBER**  
Dave Garcia  
**REGION 7 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST**  
Claudia Vicino

## Charter Presidents 2021-2022

**MOTHER LODGE**  
Karen Vail

**SAN JOAQUIN**  
Travis Manley

**STANISLAUS**  
Kelene Blevins

**TUOLUMNE**  
Michael Merrill

**RETIRED**  
Cindy Murray