



Association of California School Administrators

Annual Spring Conference Coming Soon

by Kelene Blevins, Conference Chair

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The **Annual ACSA Region 7 Spring Conference** returns to **South Lake Tahoe** from **May 2-4, 2025**, bringing together educational leaders for a weekend of professional development, collaboration, and celebration. The event kicks off on **Friday, May 2**, with a **Women's Leadership Breakfast** featuring **Dr. Trudy Arriaga**, who will speak on **Leading While Female**. Following breakfast, the conference begins at **9:30 a.m.** with a **State of Education Panel** moderated by **Scott Nanik**, Superintendent of **Bret Harte Union High School District**. Panelists **Leilani Aguinaldo**, **Serette Kaminski**, **Barrett Snider**, and **Michael Fine** will discuss key issues impacting education at the state and federal levels. Attendees will then have the opportunity to participate in a variety of **breakout sessions** led by local administrators.

In the afternoon, **Shari Murphy** will deliver a **keynote address** on *Rooted Resilience: Grounded Fulfillment & Joy in Education* (2:30-3:45 PM), helping leaders navigate the demands of education while maintaining balance, purpose, and intentional leadership. The evening will conclude with the **President's Awards Dinner**, where we will honor **Region 7** awardees for their outstanding contributions to education.

On **Saturday, May 3**, the conference continues with additional **breakout sessions**, followed by a **keynote presentation** from **Julie Winkle Giulioni** (10:15-11:45 AM) titled *Beyond Promotions: A Multidimensional Approach to Career Growth for School Leaders*. This session challenges traditional career advancement models and provides fresh perspectives on professional growth.

The day will close with our **Annual Kentucky Derby Soiree**, where attendees can enjoy the race, dress up in Derby attire, and participate in the **Kentucky Derby Hat Parade**. **Derby squares will be sold for \$5 each** to support student scholarships.

The conference concludes on **Sunday, May 4**, with a **keynote** from **Dr. Dominique Smith** (8:30-10:00 AM) on *Sense of Belonging*. This session will explore strategies for fostering inclusive, supportive school communities where every student feels valued and empowered.

With **engaging speakers, insightful discussions, and meaningful networking opportunities**, the **Spring Conference** promises to be an unforgettable experience. See you in **South Lake Tahoe** for a weekend of inspiration and growth!

Derby Sponsors

Horace Mann
Founded by Educators for Educators

THE SHINING STARS PROJECT

VEREGY™

Join us for our annual Kentucky Derby Soirée!
Hat Contest, Best Dressed Couple, Student Scholarship Fundraiser, Derby Race Pool

Sponsored By: Horace Mann, The Shining Stars Project, and Veregy

Saturday May 3rd | 3:15 - 5:00 PM | Atrium II & III

REGION 7 CHARTER REPORTS

Retired (RAC) Charter

by Barbara McCleskey, President

Greeting from “RAC” (Retired Administrators Charter).

As a reminder our officers for this year are as follows: President – Barbara McCleskey; Vice President – Barbara Magpusao; Past President – Cindy Murray; Vice President Legislative Action – Bob Lee; Vice President Programs-all membership; Vice President Membership – Virginia Berry; Treasurer – Cindy Murray; Secretary-Dede Baker; Director of Conference Committee and Awards- Cindy Murray; and our famous Region 7 Executive Director/Consultant Mary Ann Sanders.

Last year we decided to cut down on the number of meeting so our schedule for this year is as follows:

At our September 3rd meeting Sandy Howell, from HICAP, spoke on “Medicare Health & Options”.

On December 6th we held our Christmas Social and ornament exchange. We also toured the McHenry Mansion in Modesto. If you have never visited this Mansion – it is a must – and free!

We held our business meeting on February 4th.

April 1st we visited the Chicken Ranch Casino Resort in Jamestown. It is new and we heard great things about it. Don't worry – we did not spend all our retirement money there.

May 6th our speaker will be Colleen F. Van Egmond, Attorney at Law, speaking on Estate Planning and other legal matters. She spoke to us several years ago and was very informative.

June 3rd our speaker will be Detective Cooper speaking on Human Trafficking

You do not have to be a RAC member to attend these meetings so if there is a subject that is of interest to you –just let me (Barbara McCleskey) know by texting me at 209-483-1808. Each individual pays for their own meal.

On behalf of RAC – we wish everyone a Happy Easter.



Stanislaus Charter

by Adriana Corona-Duran, President

As I prepare to pass on the torch to the new president, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the incredible journey and inspiring messages that were shared within ACSA.

We began in August with our Kickoff where we heard the inspirational message of Dr. Daryl Camp reminding everyone of the critical need for administrator wellness. In September we listened to an expert panel composed of various districts and Stanislaus County Office personnel share their best strategies and tips for improving attendance, with our County Superintendent being the moderator. Thank you to the panel and Scott!

In October we listened to the wise words of Shaun Hurtado as he shared with us valuable insights and practical strategies to foster engaging, inclusive, and supportive school environments where every student thrives. In November we heard Melissa Stephanski's message of *Igniting Courage: Bold Leadership Empowering Fearless Instruction!* The key points of her presentation were ignite courage-a culture for learning, resource stewardship & barrier removal and capacity growth, with bold leadership actions to make it happen.

In December we heard the inspiring message of Chris McPherson, in his presentation of *Employee Engagement & Sustainment: Leadership During Challenging Times*. Mr. McPherson shared strategies on how to foster a supportive environment when faced with difficult challenges, focusing on achieving, learning, contributing and valuing others, to name a few of his key points.

In January we celebrated 28 outstanding classified employees for the Employees Making a Difference Event. In February, Erica Enz shared best practices for the *Site Leaders' Role in Supporting PBIS Fidelity*. In March we celebrated 24 students for the Every Student Succeeding Event whose powerful stories of overcoming challenges reminded us that the power of a team with a common goal and their unwavering resilience can be the pathway to success.

In April we listened to Alyssa Gallagher speak about M.E.S.S.Y. Leadership, Why striving to be the “perfect leader” may not be helping you.

In May, Ivan Carrillo is going to grace us with his presence, and last but not least, in May we will also be celebrating our ACSA member retirees!

The commitment, collaboration and innovation I witnessed within this organization, the Stanislaus County Office Personnel and our Partners 4 purpose, have been truly inspiring.

Thank you for everyone's encouragement, and unwavering dedication to leadership and education. I look forward to seeing all the great things that lie ahead for ACSA. Wishing you continued success and fulfillment in all that you do.

CHARTER REPORTS

Tuolumne Charter - Leading Strong in Tuolumne County

by Dr. Ben Howell, President

The Tuolumne County Charter was proud to honor 29 outstanding school employees at the annual Employees Who Make a Difference event on March 27, 2025, at the Tuolumne Sheriff's Posse Grounds in Jamestown. More than 150 school staff members and administrators gathered to celebrate the dedication and impact of these individuals, who have devoted their careers to enriching their school communities. The evening's theme—Leading to Make a Difference in Every Student's Life—was evident throughout the celebration.

This year, the charter has emphasized leading with purpose and intentionality, striving to build stronger networks of support for our schools and better meet student needs. Along the way, TCACSA has also embraced the importance of celebrating and fostering a sense of joy within our educational community.

The Employees Who Make a Difference event complemented February's Every Student Succeeding Breakfast, held on February 13, 2025, at the Tuolumne Resiliency Center. This powerful event highlighted the determination and perseverance of 15 remarkable students who have chosen to move forward and overcome challenges despite life's obstacles. Their resilience is a testament to their hard work and the incredible support system within Tuolumne County Schools.

TCACSA is deeply grateful to the Sonora Area Foundation for its continued support and to Dan Imfield for his generous scholarship, awarded to every graduating high school senior who receives the Every Student Succeeding recognition. These contributions serve as seeds of hope, opening doors to new opportunities for our students. Our community's unwavering commitment to working together ensures a brighter future for all.

As we move into spring, the Tuolumne County Charter is excited to focus on leading with a coaching and mentoring mindset in our Spring Professional Development Program. Whether over breakfast, on our school campuses, or through countywide collaboration, TCACSA is committed to closing out the school year with motivation, innovation, and a shared dedication to student success.



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**EVERY STUDENT,
EVERY ADMIN,
EVERY REGION**

✓OTE
JARED HUNGERFORD

FOR ACSA STATE VPLA

✓ SERVICE LEADERSHIP
Motivated by a commitment to service of others: our students, communities and colleagues.

✓ DIVERSE EXPERIENCE
Urban, suburban and rural experience in education in districts big and small; Unified to Elementary to the COE, from Pre-K to Adult Ed.

✓ COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY
Shared leadership with Region VPLAs, Legislative Policy, Committees and Councils, and all our members through an open door and active collection of input.

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT
Educational Services
Calaveras County Office
of Education

CONTACT ME
jared4vpla@gmail.com

Save the Date

ACSA'S ANNUAL
**CLASSIFIED EDUCATIONAL
LEADERS DINNER**

Wednesday, October 15th @ 4:30 pm
DOUBLETREE HOTEL MODESTO

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KEVIN BRACY

REGION 7 ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS FOR 2025/2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW 2025/2026 REGION 7 OFFICERS!

President: Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.
President-Elect: Kristin Lilly-Porter
Vice President: Dr. Ben Howell
Secretary: Janelle R. DeGreek
Treasurer: Araseli Zamora
Vice President, Programs: Laurie Hulin
Vice President, Legislative Action: Tom Nipper
Vice President, Membership: Jennifer Backman
Past President: Tami Garcia
ACSA State Board Representative: Deborah Rowe



The new officers will be installed at the annual Spring Conference at the Margaritaville Resort, So. Lake Tahoe on Saturday, May 3rd. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

MEET YOUR COUNCIL REP

Who: Kevin Fox

Council: Region 7 Career Technical Education Representative

Job & Responsibilities:

I currently serve as the Career Technical Education (CTE) Director for the Stanislaus County Office of Education. In this role, I oversee CTE programs across two community schools, one court school, and our SCOE Adult Education CTE programs. I also act as the K-12 Strong Workforce Pathway Coordinator for the Central/Mother Lode Region Consortium. Additionally, I represent SCOE as a community liaison on numerous boards and councils—more than I can reasonably count!

Years in Education:

I'm going on seven years in education.

Why I Chose This Profession:

To be honest, this profession chose me. After being downsized in the corporate broadcast media world, I applied for what I thought was an event production position. It turned out to be running the daily operations of a trade school—VOLT Institute—and that moment completely shifted my career path. I quickly realized how powerful and meaningful this work could be.

Hobbies:

I follow my curiosity. I like to make things, build things, and fix things. I tend to visualize something, mentally deconstruct it, and then figure out how to bring it to life. For me, it's more about the process than the product—though the product usually turns out awesome too. I also own several sailboats. I love sailing, but what I really enjoy is the hands-on work that comes with maintaining and restoring the boats.

Spare Time:

In my spare time, I work. I genuinely enjoy being productive, whether that's in the garage, on a project, or out on the water. I'm happiest when I'm building or fixing something.

Something of Interest About Me:

I don't consider myself all that interesting, but people are usually surprised by the variety of jobs I've held, the skills I've picked up along the way, and the projects I've taken on in the community. More often than not, that mix of experiences tends to leave a lasting impression.



End of Term Reflection: ACSA Region 7 State Board Representative

by Scott Nanik
ACSA Region 7 State Board Representative
2022-2025

As I near the conclusion of my three-year term as the ACSA Region 7 State Board Representative, I can't help but feel a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. It has been an honor to serve our region and advocate for the needs of our students, educators, and administrators.

During my tenure, I have had the privilege of working on several important initiatives, including:

- Advocating for increased funding for public education, and more equitable distribution of resources across our region.
- Supporting the development of new and innovative educational programs and initiatives.
- Collaborating with other stakeholders to address the challenges facing our schools and communities.
- Representing our region at conferences, and sharing best practices with other educators.

I am particularly proud of the work we have done to support our students and to create a more inclusive and welcoming learning environment for all. I believe that every child deserves a high-quality education, regardless of their background or zip code.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to have worked with such a dedicated and passionate team of educators at the state and local level. It has been an inspiration to see the incredible work that is being done in our schools every day.

As I pass the torch to the next State Board Representative, Deb Rowe, I am confident that she will continue to build on the progress we have made and to advocate for the needs of our region.

I am excited to see what the future holds for ACSA Region 7, and I look forward to continuing to support our schools and communities in any way I can. The February 14th Board Meeting notes are on the Region 7 website.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to seeing you at our Region Conference in Lake Tahoe.



ANNUAL REGION 7 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

JUNE 9, 2025

The Fruit Yard, Modesto



Top Ten Reasons You Should Belong to ACSA

- Improves the educational success of ALL students.***
- Keeps you up-to-date on education issues, trends, and findings.***
- Continued development of your leadership skills.***
- Receive legislative updates and legislative advocacy.***
- Receive the official weekly EdCal publication.***
- Participate in professional development throughout the state.***
- Influence the professions by collaborating with organizations.***
- LEGAL PROTECTION.***
- Provide scholarships.***
- PEER RECOGNITION.***

ADMINISTRATORS OF THE YEAR 2025

by Dr. Denise Wickham, Region 7 Awards Chair

We are extremely excited to honor our ACSA Region 7 Administrators of the Year! Please join us for the Awards Ceremony and Dinner on May 2, 2025, at the Compass Rose Ballroom in the Margaritaville Resort Hotel, South Lake Tahoe. The ceremony begins with at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served immediately following the ceremony. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. School administrators will be recognized for their unwavering dedication and commitment to the students they serve. Help us celebrate these worthy individuals.

The Region Awards Dinner is completely sold out. A special thank you to the Awards Committee for their hard work in making this event a success!

Superintendent:

Dr. Troy Brown, County Superintendent - San Joaquin COE

Superintendent/Principal:

Beverly Boone, Superintendent/Principal - Oak View Elementary SD

Secondary Principal:

Mary La Rosa, Principal - Emilie J. Ross Middle School - Hughson USD

Middle Grades Principal:

Matthew Hutsell, Principal - Blaker-Kinser Junior High - Ceres USD

Elementary Principal:

Sarah Hayes, Principal - Mary Lou Dieterich Elementary School - Stanislaus Union SD

Central Office Administrator:

Mark Herbst, Associate Superintendent, Student Support Services - Modesto City Schools

Secondary Co-Administrator:

Patrick Rodden, Assistant Principal - Thomas Downey High School - Modesto City Schools

Elementary Co-Administrator:

Maggie Hartung, Assistant Principal - Sinclear Elementary School - Ceres USD

Classified Leader:

Michael Maaske, Director of Nutrition Services - Sylvan Union SD

Confidential Employee:

Antoinette Chambers, Executive Secretary to the Board of Education – Modesto City Schools

Personnel/Human Resources Administrator:

Melissa Truelock, Director of Human Resources - Calaveras COE

Career Technical Administrator:

Nicole Gravette, Director, Career Technical Education - Amador County USD

Special Education Administrator:

Mandy Carranza, Coordinator of Special Education - Turlock USD

Student Services Administrator:

Sharon Carter, Director of MTSS - Ceres USD

Curriculum & Instruction Administrator:

Tiffany Davenport, Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services/Special Education Services - Empire Union SD

Adult Education Administrator:

Jessica Dorris, Director of Curriculum & Instruction – Calaveras COE

Retired Administrator:

Barbara Magpusao, ACSA Charter (RAC) Region 7

Technology Administrator:

Donna Williamson, Division Director Codestack - San Joaquin COE

Valuing Diversity:

Dr. Dwight Rogers, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Family Engagement - Stockton USD

Partners In Educational Excellence:

Letters to Santa Charity - Turlock USD

REGION 7 SPECIAL AWARDS

Board of Trustees:

Stanislaus Union School Board - Gricelda Garcia, Board President; John Casselberry Jr., Board Clerk; Susan Elliott, Trustee; Michael Tognotti, Trustee; Michele Wolf, Trustee

Bob Price Distinguished Service Award:

Jennifer Backman, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services - Stanislaus Union SD

Bill Ullom Award:

Dr. Sara Noguchi, Superintendent- Modesto City Schools



Why ACSA?



I joined ACSA at the beginning of my career 18 years ago for the same reasons as most; the insurance, networking, and professional development. What I found that truly distinguishes ACSA, however, is its ability to support your career's evolution and connect you with remarkable individuals along the way. My involvement, particularly in holding office, provided invaluable professional insights and positively impacted my district in ways I deeply value. It has been a really great experience. When I am ready, it is reassuring to know that ACSA will continue to be a professional resource and community at the retirement stage of my career.

Carrie Duckart
Assistant Superintendent
Hughson Unified SD

Region 7 Welcomes New Members

Mother Lode Charter

Audrey Biehle, Principal – Calaveras USD

Denae Merten, Principal – Amador County USD

San Joaquin Charter

Dante Dell'Aringa, Assistant Principal – Tracy USD

Kasey Klappenback, Assistant Superintendent, Ed Services – Stockton USD

Peter Knudson, Vice Principal, Manteca USD

Maureen Riley, Principal – Tracy USD

Amy Soriano, Principal – New Jerusalem ESD

Retired Administrators Charter (RAC)

Beth-Geraldine Weston, Vice Principal – Modesto City Schools

Stanislaus Charter

Ernesto Arellano, Assistant Principal – Modesto City Schools

Marianne E. Ashby, Principal, Ceres USD

Darlene Carvalho, Student Services Administrator – Modesto City Schools

Paul S. Chapman, Assistant Principal – Modesto City Schools

Lourdes Crawford, Learning Director – Hughson USD

Courtney Crooks, Program Specialist – Turlock USD

Alejandro De Loa Franco, Assistant Principal – Modesto City Schools

Justice Futch, Learning Director – Hughson USD

Kenya Gonzalez, Vice Principal – Modesto City Schools

Michael S. Hernandez, Vice Principal - Modesto City Schools

David Houck, Senior Director, CWA - Modesto City Schools

Tammy Jones, Administrator of Special Projects - Modesto City Schools

Mary La Rosa, Principal Hughson USD

Loren Lighthall, Principal – Hughson USD

Amelia Luna, Assistant Principal – Riverbank USD

William Patterson, Equity & Intervention Specialist - Modesto City Schools

Casey Peterson, Assistant Principal - Modesto City Schools

Amanda Ramirez, Administrative Assistant – Modesto City Schools

Megan Reisz, Principal – Hughson USD

Jason Smith, Vice Principal - Modesto City Schools

Jordan Story, Vice Principal - Modesto City Schools

Krystal Trinkler, Vice Principal - Modesto City Schools

Luke R. Uhte, Assistant Director, Maintenance & Operations – Ceres USD

Juan Zamora, Assistant Principal - Modesto City Schools

Marielena Zuniga, Vice Principal - Modesto City Schools

Tuolumne Charter

Alexa MacGregor, English Teacher - Student Member – Big Oak Flat Groveland USD

Andrea Thomas, Senior Human Resources Analyst II, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

A special thanks to ACSA recruiters Nicole Gravette, Marileu Miranda, Ed Pelfrey, Brenda Smith, and David Viss!



In Memory

It is with a heavy heart that we share the sad news of the passing of our very dear friend, Steve Fisher from Horace Mann. Steve was one of the most dedicated and passionate supporters of our region. He was always present at our events—whether it was kick-offs, GMA's, ESS, or spring conferences—and his presence will be greatly missed.

Steve was a man of generosity and kindness, with a heart that went above and beyond in supporting both students and administrators across our region. His contributions and unwavering commitment to ACSA will not be forgotten. Steve will be missed more than words can express and his loss is deeply felt by all who knew him.



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Looking Ahead In Region 7

April

- 9 Stanislaus Charter Professional Development Breakfast 7 a.m. - Virtual
- Region 7 Cabinet Meeting - 4:30 p.m. - Virtual
- 10 San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting - 7 a.m. - Virtual
- Tuolumne Charter Spring PDP - 7 a.m. - TBD
- 15 Spring Conference Committee Meeting 7 a.m. - Virtual
- 16 General Membership Assembly - 4:30 p.m. - The Graffiti USA Classic Car Museum
- 29 Tuolumne Charter Board Meeting - 7 a.m. - Willow Wisp Café

May

- 2-4 Region 7 Annual Spring Conference - Margaritaville Resort, So. Lake Tahoe
- 7 Stanislaus Charter Cabinet Meeting = 7 a.m. - Virtual
- San Joaquin Charter Board Meeting - 7 a.m. - Virtual
- State ACSA Leadership Training - 12:00 -4:30 p.m. Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel
- 8 State ACSA Leadership Assembly Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel
- 9 State ACSA Board Meeting Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel
- 14 Stanislaus Charter Professional Learning Breakfast 7 a.m. - Virtual
- Mother Lode Cabinet Meeting - 7:30 a.m. - Virtual
- 16 San Joaquin Charter End-of-Year Event - 4:30 p.m. Valley Brew, Stockton
- 21 Stanislaus Charter Retirement Dinner - 5:00 p.m. Fruit Yard, Modesto
- 29 Mother Lode End-of-Year Event - 4:30 p.m. - TBD

June

- 9 Region 7 Leadership Training - 8 a.m. - The Fruit Yard, Modesto

Region 7 Officers 2024-2025

PRESIDENT
Tami Garcia
PRESIDENT-ELECT
Dr. Isaias Rumayor, Jr.
VICE PRESIDENT
Kristin Lilly-Porter
TREASURER
Araseli Zamora

V.P., PROGRAMS
Kelene Blevins
V.P.-ELECT, PROGRAMS
Laurie Hulin
V.P., LEG. ACTION
Jared Hungerford
V.P., MEMBERSHIP
Jennifer Backman

SECRETARY
Janelle DeGreek
PAST PRESIDENT
Deborah Rowe
REGION 7 STATE BOARD MEMBER
Scott Nanik

REGION 7 EXECUTIVE DIR./CONSULTANT
Mary Ann Sanders
REGION 7 COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST & FACILITIES COORDINATOR
Claudia Vicino

Charter Presidents 2024-2025

MOTHER LODE
Jared Hungerford

SAN JOAQUIN
Dr. Girlie Hale

STANISLAUS
Adriana Corona-Duran

TUOLUMNE
Dr. Ben Howell

RETIRED
Barbara McCleskey