

WINTER 2013

# leaders in action



**Association of California School Administrators - Region 17**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bob Johnson,  
Region XVII President

It is hard to believe that we are already past the halfway point of the 2012-2013 school year! As we move into the second half of the year I would like to share our 2012-2013 Region 17's goals. These goals are aligned with ACSA's Core Values and serve to guide us as we work together to make a positive impact on public education:

- **Goal 1:** Increase charter participation in Region professional development and other events.
- **Goal 2:** Proactively interact with potential members and increase membership.
- **Goal 3:** Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of administrators and students.
- **Goal 4:** Increase ACSA/Region XVII visibility and strengthen connections with District and charter leaders.
- **Goal 5:** Continue to cultivate relationships with Region XVII business partners.
- **Goal 6:** Provide professional opportunities for new and experienced administrators that enhance equity, diversity and access.
- **Goal 7:** Increase communication between the Region XVII Board of Directors and Region committees, councils and charters; and between Region XVII and State ACSA.

We have many exciting events scheduled this spring including **Network Night**, the **Every Student Succeeding** breakfast, our second annual **Region Conference**, and the **Administrator of the Year** celebration. I hope that you are able to attend these wonderful events! Thank you for your support of Region 17; I encourage you to continue (or expand) your involvement in Region and ACSA activities. If any of our Region leadership or I can be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## SAVE THE DATE!

...for our

**Annual Region Conference**  
**Tiger Woods Learning Center**  
**May 4, 2013**  
**7:45 to 1:00**

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For more information about ACSA Region XVII visit our web site @ [regions.acsa.org/17](http://regions.acsa.org/17) or contact:  
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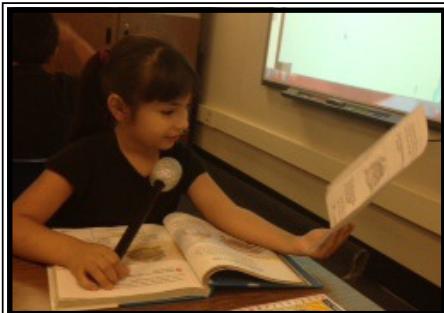
ACSA Region 17

Website:

[regions.acsa.org/17](http://regions.acsa.org/17)

# SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Leading the Common Core Implementation Effort



Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD) continues a four-year journey towards implementation of the Common Core State Standards

(CCSS) through this year's theme "Getting to the Core...Superior Standards, Supportive School Climate, Successful Students." By harnessing the potential of teacher-to-teacher coaching, the **Educational Services Division** transformed professional development, bringing the instructional shifts of the CCSS directly to each school and classroom. With 82% English Learners or redesignated English Learners, SAUSD identified key components to explicitly and purposefully address the needs of all English Learners in a coherent and consistent manner. SAUSD works from the theory of action based on the belief that implementing high quality, personalized instruction will accelerate student achievement and prepare all students to be College and Career ready.

Embracing **Michael Fullan's** eight tenants of change theory and the role of incremental and enduring change, **Superintendent Dr. Thelma Melendez de Santa Ana** has successfully led SAUSD through the first two years of a four-year plan towards full implementation of CCSS in the 2014-2015 school year. Dr. Melendez recognized the systemic change necessary to effectively implement the Common Core in every school and every classroom in the sixth largest urban school district in California. The Educational Services Division was restructured to create a system of leveraged differentiated support through a coordinated effort to ensure alignment of curriculum and services across the PK-12 continuum. Dr. Melendez also spearheaded the development of a comprehensive teacher support structure, which includes **Certificated Learning and Achievement Specialist** (CLAS) teachers at each school site. The CLAS teachers, who are teacher strategists, provide job embedded peer-to-peer personalized support to each teacher at their site. SAUSD's model illustrates a systematic, strategic implementation that promotes teacher learning through demonstration lessons with complex text, side-by-side teaching and

modeling with follow-up coaching.

A key component of the four-year implementation plan is the development of Common Core units of study. The units of study have afforded PK-12 teachers with an initial, positive experience with the Common Core and have provided an exemplar of effective Common Core instruction. These units of study emphasize key instructional shifts in both literacy and mathematics with manageable pieces and are actionable in terms of teaching and learning. The units of study also provide the teachers with a context in which to fluidly use high leverage instructional strategies throughout the PK-12 continuum including Thinking Maps, linguistic frames, GLAD strategies, language and content objectives, and Depth and Complexity Thinking Icons. Understanding change leadership theory, SAUSD introduced the units of study through a gradual release of responsibility model including opportunities to practice, refine, and receive feedback. The development of the first set of units of study and corresponding individual lessons began in the spring of 2012 and were piloted during the Summer Extended Learning Program. These units of study were also evaluated by seven stakeholder groups: **The Council of Great City School, SAUSD Common Core Task Force, CLAS Focus Group, Quality Teaching for English Learners (QTEL)** through West Ed, **Understanding Language Project**, piloting teachers, and the curriculum specialists. The units were revised to reflect the input and feedback from all stakeholders. Every kindergarten through fifth grade teacher, totaling over 720 teachers, then implemented these units of study within their classroom before winter break, with a second unit of study to be carried out by May or June of this school year. In addition, secondary writing teams comprised of expert teacher leaders, teacher strategists, and curriculum specialists are currently creating their units of study in high leverage courses such as Algebra 1, Biology, and US History. These units will also be implemented by the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

To ensure continuous support of the units of study and the key tenets of the instructional shifts, CLAS teachers,

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## TUSTIN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

by Heather Jenkins

Currie Middle School in the Tustin Unified School District has made significant gains in both Academic Performance Index (API) and Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past two years. With a 91 point API gain over the past two years, Currie Middle School is proud to have broken the 800 mark with a school-wide API score of 801. Additionally, Currie Middle School has met the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) AYP growth goals to achieve safe harbor for two consecutive years. This accomplishment means that the federal and state governments no longer identify Currie as a school that is in need of program improvement. Currie is the only middle school in Orange County this year to successfully exit program improvement (PI).

As a result of the hard work and focus of the staff and students, Currie Middle School was honored by being one of thirty five California schools nominated to apply for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Currie will apply under the Exemplary Improving Schools category. While Currie has not yet received the award, the nomination is a positive recognition that the entire school community is proud to share with the Tustin Unified School District. Staff and students are excited to continue to strive to improve academically in an effort to earn the National Blue Ribbon Award in 2013. Way to go Cougars!

## SADDLEBACK VALLEY USD

By Dominic Treviño, RSM History Teacher, with contributions from Rick Jameson, RSM principal

### RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA MIDDLE SCHOOLERS COMPETE WITH HIGH SCHOOLERS IN MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations (MUN) has been around at the secondary education level since the late 1970's. The focus of MUN is local education through simulation of real activities happening in the international community. Students actively research at a high level, learn legal and technical writing, and develop their public speaking skills through role-playing the part of Ambassadors to the United Nations, from its various member states.

Although MUN made its way down to the middle/intermediate school level in the late 1990's, it wasn't until 2011-12 that Rancho Santa Margarita Intermediate School (RSM) started a team for 7th and 8th grade students, under

the leadership of history teachers **Laurie Ammirato** and **Rajesh Rajadhyaksha**.

MUN is open to any RSM student interested in learning argumentation, debate, public speaking skills, research, and competition. In its first year at RSM, we had 25 students compete in five high school MUN conferences. They brought home a number of personal awards for their hard work and research.

This year the team underwent leadership changes due to teacher transfers. While we were sad to lose Mr. Rajadhyaksha to another school in SVUSD, long-time high school MUN advisor **Dominic Treviño** joined our staff.

Our MUN membership boasts about 40 members, half of whom are returning 8th graders. Students meet once per week at lunch

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## FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT *EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDING*

by Bob Johnson

In partnership with Fullerton School District, the Fullerton Elementary School Management Association (FESMA) held its second annual *Every Student Succeeding Awards Ceremony* on Thursday, January 10, 2013. Each of the 20 school sites within the district selected a student who has overcome incredible obstacles and faced life's challenges with a courageous attitude. **Sherry Hoyt**, Commonwealth School Principal and FESMA President, reports "Every Student Succeeding is a true testament to the human spirit working at its best under extremely challenging circumstances. It takes a village to raise a child and our village stands strong and proud as we salute these young scholars."

Each award recipient was introduced and, either the school site principal or teacher, shared the recipient's success story. Following the introduction of each award recipient, **Dr. Robert Pletka**, District Superintendent, announced the district-level honoree, **Jacob Reyes** (pictured right) from Sunset Lane School. Jacob will represent Fullerton School District at the ACSA Region 17 Every Student Succeeding event in March 2013.



## BECOME A 2013 FRIEND OF ACSA!!

The ACSA Region XVII Board of Directors invites you to become a “Friend of ACSA” in 2013. Your contribution will directly support the 2013 *Every Student Succeeding Breakfast* which will be held Friday, March 22nd.

The *Every Student Succeeding Breakfast* recognizes students who have faced and overcome tremendous challenges in their lives and become highly successful in their educational careers. Both elementary and secondary students are recognized and represent districts throughout Orange County.

Your contribution will assist with program expenses such as breakfasts for the student honorees, Olympic style medals provided to each student, and breakfast for members of the student’s support team. Our goal is to underwrite the majority of the event costs through our “Friends” program.

We genuinely hope you will accept our invitation to become one of our supporters. Let’s make this year’s campaign the best ever!! We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Thank you.

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(Please return this bottom portion with your contribution.)

**Yes, I want to become a “2013 Friend of ACSA!!”**

**Here is my contribution of  \$25,  \$50,  \$75,  \$100**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Name will appear in our newsletter and on our website as written above.)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**  
**ACSA Region XVII**  
**P.O. Box 9050, Espl. 6, Ste. 109**  
**Costa Mesa, CA 92626**

## **NAMED 1 OF 3 FOR NATIONAL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Information from the *National Association of Secondary School Principals*.

Our very own Dr. Rebecca Roberts, Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Guidance, Villa Park High School, has been named as one of three finalists for the National Assistant Principal of the Year! Caring about each of the 2,500 students has led to remarkable success in her school. She has led the development of many intervention programs which has provided extra time and support to those students in need. Congratulations and good luck!!

## **CAPITAL IDEA PROVES INSPIRING FOR O.C. STUDENTS IN WASHINGTON**

(excerpts from OC Register article by Dena Bunis)



For a group of high school seniors from Huntington Beach who live thousands of miles from the nation's capital, getting a chance to stand with a million people and see a president inaugurated made real the power and magnitude of the American system of government. "It's great to experience something that is the center of our country," Melanie Daw, one of the organizers of the Edison High School week-long trip to Washington, said...Daw, 17, is enrolled in Edison's Center for International Business and Communications Studies (CIBACS) program at Edison High School where D'liese Melendez is principal. The program infuses the English and social studies' curricula with business education and interaction with local businesses.

...The Edison group brought a little California sunshine with them. It was 38 degrees, a warmer inauguration morning than during recent ceremonies. "We left our hotel at 5 a.m.," said Lori Chlarson, one of the three teachers who shepherded the students to Washington. Chlarson was standing behind the Reflecting Pool in the shadow of the Capitol during the inauguration. The Edison contingent was in the first group let into the site at 7 a.m...."It's emotional, just being here," Chlarson said.

...Daw and her classmates repeated the phrase "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" when asked what being at this 57th inauguration ceremony meant to them...The CIBACS program included government during the fall semester, and that made coming to the inauguration even more special...(Photo provided by Melanie Dew)

## **SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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curriculum specialists and administration deliver strategic and continuous professional development at each site. The 2012-2013 school year began with every teacher in SAUSD learning about the history, foundational tenets and key instructional shifts of the Common Core. The common experience provides a shared focus among the staff and encourages the use of common instructional language. Throughout the 2012-2013 school year, all PK-12 teachers are learning and applying specific key instructional strategies found within the units of study to support English Learners.

Student learning is continuously assessed to inform practice and monitor implementation of best practices and Common Core. SAUSD developed a data dashboard to dynamically communicate district and

school progress for meeting college and career readiness indicators and measures. Site administrators, district administrators, and support staff have been provided professional development that integrates performance-based assessments within the Common Core units of study and links back to Key Performance Indicators (KPI) measures. Frequent district-wide data review team meetings ensure consistent, district-wide monitoring as the units of study are implemented.

With the Clear Focus on Learning found in their 7 Building Blocks of Success and enacting their theme of "Getting to the Core... Superior Standards, Supportive School Climate, Successful Students." SAUSD is preparing all students to be College and Career Ready through a world-class education.

# ACSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' STRATEGIC PLANNING

by Julie White, State ACSA

As you know, ACSA's Board of Directors initiated our **Strategic Planning** process in May 2012. The process will continue throughout the 2012-13 year and it will be a major focus of our delegate assemblies and region activities in the weeks and months ahead.

The process began with the selection of planning team members who developed a draft of the Strategic Plan last fall. The draft plan contains a statement of beliefs, mission, parameters, objectives and strategies. Action Teams, consisting of more than 300 ACSA members, will ensure the strategies of the plan are operational. The **Action Teams Leaders** are:

- Team 1: We will be the authoritative advocates for all matters pertaining to education and its leaders. Team Leader: **Patrick Sweeney**, Superintendent, Napa Valley USD
- Team 2: We will be the premier provider of an array of compelling learning experiences dedicated to developing the capacity of all education leaders. Team Leader: **Mary Jones**, Deputy Superintendent, Ceres USD
- Team 3: We will initiate and build dynamic alliances with others of common purpose. Team Leader: **Sonny Da Marto**, Superintendent, Turlock USD
- Team 4: We will build and sustain vibrant, purposeful networks of educational communities. Team Leader: **Judy White**, Superintendent, Moreno Valley USD
- Team 5: We will be the originator and source for inspiring and creating new concepts of learning and teaching. Team Leader: **Liz Blanco**, Assistant Superintendent, San Francisco USD
- Team 6: We will boldly brand and progressively market our identity. Team Leader: **Erik Burmeister**, Principal, Menlo Park CSD
- Team 7: We will cultivate transformational technologies in all aspects of our work. Team Leader: **Gabe Soumakian**, Superintendent, Oxnard Union HSD

- Team 8: We will change our organization from its present structure to constantly evolving formations. Team Leader: **Linda Wagner**, Superintendent, Monrovia USD
- Team 9: We will dedicate our budget, resources and assets to accomplishment of our mission and objectives. Team Leader: **Ted Alejandre**, Assistant Superintendent, San Bernardino COE

The nine Action Teams will meet from January through April 2013. The Action Teams will determine how to acquire and deploy resources to accomplish the plan's mission and objectives. Then, the Planning Team will meet again April 28-29 to review the Action Steps, revisit the draft plan, and adopt necessary changes. The final plan will be reviewed and voted on by the ACSA Board of Directors in July 2013. An implementation phase will follow, during which staff resources will be aligned to the plan.

Action Teams are now busy with weekly meetings using Adobe Connect web-conferencing technology. Plus Action Teams are using Basecamp, a project management site to collaborate between meetings and document their efforts. The first step of each Action Team is to come to an agreement on the operational definitions of the strategy itself. Once consensus is reached, the group can move to the next step and begin developing its Action Plans. Action Team Leaders will present their Action Plans to the Strategic Planning Team on April 28-29. As noted above, the Board of Directors will review and has a final vote on the plan in July 2013.

We're encouraging members to share recommendations for the Action Teams at region meetings and through our website. This input will help ensure broad member involvement in decisions by the Action Teams, Planning Team, and Board of Directors about what to keep, eliminate, or modify as the Strategic Plan is finalized.

## RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

(continued from page 3) to run MUN affairs and after school once per month for practice simulations. RSM MUN students have, so far, attended 3 conferences and have won many awards for their efforts. Most recently, RSM students took home 11 awards in 10 committees at the prestigious **Mission Viejo High School MUN 30th Annual Conference**. RSM is actively seeking donations and sponsorships to help its members attend other MUN Conferences. Transportation to out of county conferences

is the costliest part of the activities. The 3rd Annual IIMUN conference will be held on the RSM campus on April 13 and will be co-hosted by Trabuco Hills High School MUN students and their advisor (Rajadhyaksha).

There are not many opportunities for middle school students to compete directly with high school students. MUN allows them to do so fairly ... or should we say, diplomatically?

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Mary O'Neill Grace, Ed.D., Member Chair

Region 17 had a net gain of 32 new members, for a total of 892!!! We are again within striking distance of gaining that 5th delegate just 8 members shy of reaching that 900 mark.

This is exciting because this does not include our October Network Night in South Orange County or any new members that joined yet in November...

## Congratulations and welcome to our new members:

### Recruiters -

- Erin Bains, FVUSD recruited Heather Harrison
- Teali Fielder MSD recruited Christina Fink
- Cesar Flores OUSD recruited John Briquet
- Brenna Godsey OUSD recruited Victoria Webber
- Cindy Freeman, PYLUSD recruited Connie Roe
- Mary Grace, ACSD recruited Stacy Wheat, Stephanie Shumate, & Darren Dang
- Rick Jameson, SBVUSD recruited John Bajorek
- Scott Macintyre FJHSD recruited Margaret Buchan
- Norma Martinez Centraillia recruited Erasmo Garcia
- Rob McCane WSD recruited Carrie Hernandez
- Jason Viloria Irvine USD recruited Lynn Matassarin, Keith Tuominen, & Scott Scdorff

### New or Reinstated Members -

- Anaheim City: Stacy Wheat, Program Specialist Anaheim; Darren Dang, Asst. Supt. Admin Services; Stephanie Shumate
- Anaheim Union HSD: Russell Ernest, Principal
- Centraillia: Mary Ann Alvarado, Admn. Asst., Erasmo Garcia, Principal Danbrook Elementary, Aaron Polanco, HR Clerk, Michelle Turner, HR Specialist, Deborah Cogley, HR Specialist, Ruth Ann McMillen, Exec Asst to Supt., Nancy Nien, Asst. Supt/Bus Services, Carla Nossett, Admn Asst., Douglas Staine, Asst. Supt.
- Fountain Valley USD: Heather Harrison, Asst. Principal, Masuda Middle
- Fullerton Joint Union: Margaret Buchan, Principal, Troy High
- Huntington Beach HSD: Jason Ross, Asst. Principal
- Irvine USD: Lynn Matassarin, Principal at Sierra Vista Middle; Keith Tuominen, Director Secondary Ed.; Stuart Payne, Principal; Scott Scdorff, Woodbridge HS
- Los Alimitos: Tanya De Leon, Asst. Principal, JH McGaugh Elem., Isaac Gates, Dean, Darren Platt, Asst. Principal, Oak Middle
- Magnolia SD: Christina Fink, Asst. Principal, Maxwell Elem.
- Orange USD: Victoria Webber, Exc. Asst.
- Placentia Yorba Linda USD: Connie Roe, Asst. Principal, Travis Ranch
- Saddleback Valley: John Bajorek, Asst. Principal at RSM Intermediate
- Santa Ana USD: Doreen Lohnes, Asst. Supt., Thelma Melendez De Santa Ana, Supt.
- Savanna ESD: Cynthia Clemens, Exec. Sec. to Supt.; Jeanne Dinkle, Dir. Food Services; James Harris, Dir. M&O
- Tustin USD: Alex Rojas, Asst. Supt. of Admin. Services Union HSD: John Briguelet, Principal, Loara HS
- Westminster: Carrie Hernandez, Asst. Principal, Jessie Hayden Elem.

Remember LEADERSHIP MATTERS!!!  
Your Region 17 membership chair

## 2012-2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### February

- 27 Leadership Forum  
27 ACSA Webinar

### March

- 4 Network Night  
6 Retirement Committee Meeting  
13 Board of Directors Meeting  
15 O.C. Superintendents Meeting  
18 Legislative Action Day  
22 Every Student Succeeding Breakfast Celebration

### April

- 3 Retirement Committee Meeting  
17 Board of Directors Meeting  
19 O.C. Superintendents Meeting

### May

- 1 Retirement Committee Meeting  
4 Region Conference  
8 Delegate Assembly  
13 Administrator of the Year & Friends of Education Awards Banquet  
17 O.C. Superintendents Meeting  
22 Board of Directors Meeting  
29 Spring Newsletter Articles Due

### June

- 5 Retirement Committee Meeting  
18 Leadership Training  
21 O.C. Superintendents Meeting

### Got News?

Articles from region members and charters are welcomed for publication in the newsletter.

Please send all articles to Jody Black at [jmblack@tustin.k12.ca.us](mailto:jmblack@tustin.k12.ca.us)  
Newsletter editor & webmaster - Kristi Kirsch



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