

## LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

### ***Ms. Patty Gunderson—Lassen County Superintendent of Schools***



#### ***What led you to become County Superintendent?***

My path to County Superintendent was nontraditional. Early in my teaching career, I was very fortunate to have site principals and district superintendents who allowed me to take active roles in site administrative activities. Being able to provide leadership at the site level gave me the incentive to pursue my Administrative credential. I loved teaching but felt I could give students my support in a larger way by becoming a site principal. After spending eleven years as the site principal of a middle school, I returned to the classroom to teach Transitional Kindergarten. I was born and raised in Lassen County, and I have a passion and love for this area and the communities that surround it. The people of Lassen County voted for me and shared an educational vision for their children. I plan to do my very best to help all of the schools in the county achieve that vision.

#### ***What inspired you to enter the field of education?***

I have always wanted to be a teacher. I was the little girl who played school with her stuffed animals and then later with the neighborhood children. I had some extremely talented, caring, and inspiring teachers in my life, several who encouraged me to follow my dream.

#### ***Do you have a particular goal that drives you?***

I am driven each day to make Lassen County a place where learning truly is a lifelong goal. My passion for doing what is

"right" for all students, individually and collectively, guides me each day.

#### ***What objective do you hope to achieve?***

Working with our community partners and redefining our goals in the next few months will allow us to help meet the needs of our students, not only academically but socially, emotionally, and physically.

Specific goals focus on College and Career Readiness, which includes all areas of learning, vocational trades, and skilled labor, as well as traditional college attendance. Additional coaching and mentoring for teachers and administrators in our county is also a priority.

#### ***What are your interests?***

My interests include reading, playing with my three grandsons, camping and shooting with my husband, and participating in community activities. Relaxation and enjoying life at its simplest is a priority. Coffee on the deck in the spring and summer, and watching it snow in the winter listening to the fire crackle and pop in the wood stove are two of my favorite pastimes.

#### ***Who are the special people in your life?***

My husband of 25 years, Clayton, has been my biggest supporter and champion. My three children, Gabriel, Keegan, and Kirsten have given me laughter, tears, and even guidance during my career, and my three adorable grandsons, Collin, Beau, and Joey provide my biggest push each day as I see the excitement for life and learning in their eyes.

## FROM THE DESK OF:

### ***Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director***

Late last week PACE and the USC Rossier School of Education released a poll that showed 63% of voters support reauthorization of at least a portion of the Proposition 30 temporary taxes that have allowed California to eliminate its deficits and invest in education. As you recall, Proposition 30 provided for temporary increases of the sales tax and the income tax on high income taxpayers.

The poll also showed that the percentage of voters who believe public schools are improving increased from only 7% in 2012 to 17% now. During that same period, the percentages saying the schools had gotten worse declined from 45% in 2012 to 34% now.

These topics are particularly relevant because the temporary tax increases will begin to expire in 2016-17. Specifically, the sales tax increase will expire over 2016-17 and 2017-18, and the personal income tax increase will expire over 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The general assumption among political analysts is that an extension of Proposition 30 (or some variation) will not be placed

on the ballot by the Legislature. That means it will need to go through the initiative process, which now requires a long lead time.

A proposal needs to be formally reviewed and approved for circulation, then signatures need to be collected, and the signatures counted in time to appear on the ballot. In fact, to place a measure on the November, 2016 statewide ballot, a group would need to start in September, 2015 (now) to allow the maximum time for each of these steps.

In other words, the clock is ticking. Given the importance of recent increases in funding for schools, this issue is critical to schools across the state. Polling and discussions are actively taking place and we expect the October General Membership meeting will be an excellent opportunity to discuss these issues in greater depth.

Note: You can find the PACE/USC Rossier poll at <http://edpolicyinca.org/node/534>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### New Superintendents

**Appointed:** Mike Martin will replace Gary Jones as Modoc County Superintendent of Schools on December 8, 2015, and Terry Oestreich has been appointed acting superintendent of Plumas County Office of Education to replace Micheline Miglis. Gary Jones has accepted a position as Associate Superintendent with the Alameda County Office of Education, and Micheline Miglis is the new superintendent of Carpinteria Unified School District in Santa Barbara.

### October General Membership Meeting:

CCSESA General Membership will meet in Napa from October 4-6. Registration is now open. Contact JaConya Merchant if you have any questions: [jmerchant@ccsesa.org](mailto:jmerchant@ccsesa.org).

### Green Schools Summit 2015:

Get the latest on topics ranging from Prop 39 best practices to water conservation, funding and incentives and curriculum. For details on the concurrent session program on October 29-30, [click here](#).

## CCSESA STAFF

### Peter Birdsall

Executive Director

### Sandra Morales

Assistant Executive Director

### Sarah Anderberg

Arts Initiative Director

### Efrain Mercado

Policy Director

### Amanda Dickey

Project Coordinator

### Christina Marcellus

Project Coordinator

### Jessie Kroll-Yoas

Executive Assistant

### JaConya Merchant

Executive Assistant

### Alex DeCaprio

Executive Assistant

### Amanda Taggart

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## TWO WEEKS AND FOUR BILLS TO GO

Although hundreds of bills are still active in the state legislative process, four remaining bills are of particular interest for CCSESA. Friday, August 28, was the last day for the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees to pass bills out of committee. The measures that passed are headed to the Assembly and Senate floors, while the bills held in committee are now effectively dead for the year. The Legislature has until September 11 to act on bills, and the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills is October 11.

Of the four bills, three seem likely to reach the Governor's desk. The fate of the fourth is less certain. **SB 799 (Hill)** was amended on August 20, proposing various reforms of the school district reserve cap. SB 799 is sponsored by CSBA and has broad support among public interest and education management groups including CCSESA. However, no agreement has been announced with legislative leadership or the Governor.

The other bills of interest moving through the legislative process include:

**AB 854 (Weber):** Foster Youth - This bill would make changes in the Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program. The foster youth grant would provide supplemental funding to county offices of education, or a consortium of county offices of education, to coordinate and ensure that local educational agencies within its jurisdiction are coordinating services to foster youth pupils, with the purpose of ensuring positive educational outcomes. The state budget included a \$10 million augmentation for these programs, contingent on legislation being enacted.

**SB 172 (Liu):** CAHSEE Suspension - This bill would suspend the high school exit exam requirement as a condition of receiving a high school diploma through July 2018. Students who have met all other high school graduation requirements will be able to graduate.

**AB 141 (Bonilla):** This bill would require local educational agencies that hire a new teacher to provide them with a beginning teacher induction program and prohibits them from charging the teacher a fee to participate in the program.

## CAASPP RELEASE IS AROUND THE CORNER

The long awaited release of the CAASPP results is finally within reach. There have two major components of this release that are occurring in parallel. One component is the public release of the CAASPP results that will allow the public to review the results of Counties, Districts, and schools across the state as well as by subgroup.

Currently the public release date is tentatively scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup>. LEAs will have a chance to review the results as a part of an embargoed private preview that is tentatively scheduled for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. The private preview information will be sent to your LEA CAASPP Coordinator. This preview will allow the LEAs to review the data for errors as well as to prepare the appropriate press releases for the county, districts, etc.

The second component of the release is the shipment of the Individual Score Reports to districts. These shipments began in mid-August and will continue into September. The districts are then required to send out the Individual Score Reports within 20 working days to the student's parent or guardian. These individual score reports will likely be the first tangible piece of information that many parents and communities will have with regard to California's new standards and assessment system. There will likely be a significant level of support needed by districts, schools, and educators to help explain the new reports to students, parents, and the community. There have been a number of resources developed by CDE and County Offices that can be used to support the rollout of these reports. Contact Efrain Mercado, at [emercado@ccsesa.org](mailto:emercado@ccsesa.org) for further information.

## LCAP COMMITTEE WORKING ON GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The LCAP Coordinating Committee (led by Stan Mantooth) has been hard at work discussing the emerging trends and issues that County Superintendents and their offices are grappling with as they support, review and approve LCAPs. The initial phase of this work will result in practical guidance for County Superintendents that can be applied in their local context.

Some topics the committee is working on are how to support meaningful stakeholder engagement and developing year round support for districts to help with the implementation of

the LCAP's Goals, Actions and Services. The ultimate goal of this committee is to ensure that the LCAP process does not become a burdensome compliance document but instead helps to maximize the LCAP as a vehicle for locally driven continuous improvement.

The committee is working to prepare a draft document for review and discussion at the October General Membership Meeting.

If you have any comments or questions please contact CCSESA's Policy Director, Efrain Mercado, at [emercado@ccsesa.org](mailto:emercado@ccsesa.org).

## CREATIVITY AT THE CORE SUMMER INSTITUTE RECAP

Over 100 administrators and teachers attended the Creativity at the Core Summer Institute at Loyola Marymount University on August 4, 5, and 6 in Los Angeles sponsored by CCSESA Arts Initiative. Representative regional arts leads and their partner arts organization leads provided

breakout sessions which focused on the Creativity at the Core professional learning modules developed through funding from The California Arts Council and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. To access the Summer Institute presentations and meeting materials, please click [here](#).

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