



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Dr. Barbara Nemko—Napa County Superintendent of Schools



What led you to become County Superintendent?

I had been working as the Director of Curriculum at the Napa County Office of Education for six years when our superintendent decided to run for mayor. Since one cannot hold two elected offices at the same time, when he won the mayoral race he had to resign as county superintendent. There were 18 months left in his term, and the Board voted to appoint an interim rather than go out for an election. They appointed me, and after a year I decided I liked the job enough to run for it.

to an app designed to do that, *Footsteps2Brilliance*, to all preschool children in Napa County. I am excited to see how schools are transitioning to digital materials, and I sometimes wonder what's taking the rest of the schools so long.

What inspired you to enter the field of education?

From the time I was a little girl I always wanted to be a teacher. People always say, "I started when I was 12," but I literally was 19 and when my second grade students in New York asked who I was going to vote for. I didn't want to admit that I was too young to vote.

Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

I am very passionate about the digital transformation and early digital literacy that will enable us to narrow the achievement gap before children enter kindergarten. We just provided free access

What objectives do you hope to achieve?

We are hoping to build a facility for our Juvenile Court and Community School (JCCS) students to replace the collection of portables in which they are currently housed. We want to expand our mentor program so that every student in JCCS has a caring adult to provide stability and guidance. We are working in collaboration with our districts to transition Career Technical Education from a county-provided program to a fee-for-service program, and to develop more academic/vocational career pathways.

What are your interests?

For the last five years, my special interest has been indulging my granddaughters, ages three and five, and introducing them to the world of books, both in print and online. I continue to enjoy community theatre, and expect to reprise the role of Mrs. Strakosh in *Funny Girl* at the 6th Street Playhouse in Santa Rosa beginning August 22 and continuing for four weekends. When not in a play, my husband Marty and I love attending productions around the Bay Area, and I continue to appear as a guest on Marty's radio show, *Work With Marty Nemko*, every four to six weeks (Sundays at 11:00 a.m. on KALW).

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING DISCUSSES INDUCTION

At their April meeting, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) discussed agenda item 4C regarding teacher induction, known to most administrators and practitioners as Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA). The state has simplified how local educational agencies receive their funding, and under the new system most categorical programs, including BTSA, were eliminated. As a result, the future of the induction program has been a matter of frequent discussion and debate. The CTC agreed that the most appropriate next step would be to convene a small workgroup of interested and knowledgeable parties that will provide concrete recommendations for updating the induction program.

CCSESA has been, and will continue to be, an active participant in the induction conversations. We reaffirmed our support of high-quality induction programs at the April Commission meeting. Last month, the CCSESA Legislative Committee approved a white paper that stated CCSESA's official support position for high-quality induction programs. That letter can be viewed on the CCSESA website by clicking [here](#).

FROM THE DESK OF:

Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director

Career technical education (CTE) and regional occupational centers and programs (ROCP) remain issues of broad-based concern in the California State Legislature. For county offices, the issue is complicated by the maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement that is in place through 2014-15.

The MOE has required frequent explanation, as some legislators and staff have not initially understood why a county office cannot continue ROCP funding, as often happened during the years of Tier 3 flexibility. Fortunately, it appears we are moving past those misunderstandings. In the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on April 8, Valerie Vuichich of the Fresno County Office of Education provided a very clear explanation of the challenge faced by coun-

ty offices of education and the way counties are working with their districts to transition CTE programs.

We are pleased that there appears to be no serious discussion of continuing the MOE. The key to permanently resolving that issue is to keep explaining how former ROCP funding is now counted towards a county office's general purposes funding under the new Local Control Funding Formula.

At the same time, the Legislature is trying to find a way to support CTE programs. This clearly is also an issue of concern to many county superintendents, and is a discussion in which CCSESA will remain actively engaged.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JCCASAC Annual Conference:

JCCASAC is hosting its 45th Annual State Conference on May 14-16 in San Diego. The conference, *Paving the Way...*, will highlight college, career, and job ready programs, as well as showcase outstanding best practices throughout California. See CCSESA's homepage ([HERE](#)) for more information, and register by May 1.

Alameda Earns Proposition 39 Funds:

Congratulations to the Alameda County Office of Education for securing \$28,140 of first-round Proposition 39 funding. The money will be used for interior and exterior lighting retrofits.

EdSource 2014 Symposium:

The EdSource 2014 Symposium will bring together some of the most highly regarded public education thought leaders, along with district-level leaders such as superintendents, teachers, principals and parents for a discussion on how California's public school system is implementing the LCFF. The event will be held on May 7 from 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The cost is \$58. Click here to view the full program and to register for the event: <http://edsourcesource.org/edsourcesource-2014-symposium>.

April Quarterly Meeting:

The April 27-29 CCSESA quarterly meeting will take place in Santa Barbara. If you have questions regarding registration and/or hotel reservations, please contact Grace Vote at the CCSESA office at (916) 446-3095.

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WASHINGTON D.C. ADVOCACY TRIP UPDATE: A FOCUS ON E-RATE, EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND IDEA

During the first few days of April, a delegation of eleven county superintendents was in Washington, D.C. to advocate on issues of critical importance to the children of California. Although issues related to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) reauthorization appear to remain at impasse, there was real energy around other issues that are priority concerns to CCSESA.

Meetings with administration officials from the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services indicated they are very aware of the debate in California about expanding Transitional Kindergarten and/or preschool. Particularly encouraging was their interest in working with us to align the federal and state programs, and to make sure California

has access to new federal funding.

The trip was very timely in terms of discussions in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) about expanding the E-Rate program and reducing some of the administrative burden. CCSESA has clearly gone on record in support of increasing the ongoing E-Rate support for schools. Our most recent letter of support can be found on the CCSESA homepage.

More than 100 members of Congress, in an effort led by California Congressman Jared Huffman (D-Santa Rosa and the North Coast) are advocating for full funding of the federal commitment to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Members of the CCSESA delegation spread out to urge their legislators to support this renewed effort to increase special education funding.

LEADERS AND ADVOCATES GATHER FOR CABE STATE CONFERENCE

Over 4,000 participants attended the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) conference held in Anaheim on April 2-4, 2014. The title of the conference was *Creating Multilingual Magic: Success for English Learners through the Common Core, the New ELD Standards, Technology, and the Arts*. County office of education staff participated in many workshops and special institutes. Honorary Chairs for the conference included the following: County Superintendent Arturo Delgado (Los Angeles County Office of Education) County Superintendent Al Mijares and (Orange County Department of Education), and Sarah Anderberg, Director of the CCSESA Arts Initiative.

On Friday, CABE offered an Administrative Leadership Symposium focused on LCFF, LCAP, and

Creative Schools. Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Francisca Sánchez, President of CABE, set the context for the event, followed by a panel presentation focused on the Blueprint for Creative Schools and CREATE CA. The panelists were: Craig Cheslog, Principal Advisor to Superintendent Torlakson; Craig Watson, Director, California Arts Council; Malissa Shriver, Executive Director, President's Committee on Arts and Humanities and Co-Chair of the CREATE CA Task Force; and Sarah Anderberg.

Activities such as these include the CCSESA Arts Initiative as an active partner and focus on the overall integration of arts curriculum into classroom instruction.

MYVOTE CALIFORNIA STUDENT MOCK ELECTION

Secretary of State Debra Bowen's office has reached out to CCSESA to inform local educators about the 2014 MyVote Student Mock Election. Bowen and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson will host the mock election to make democracy come alive for young people while the election season is in full-swing.

On Tuesday, October 28, California's high school and middle school students will tell the world who they want to be Governor, and make their voices heard on issues important to them and their families. Once the votes are counted,

they can compare their choices to those of their peers around the state when the results are posted on the Secretary of State's website.

School registration for the MyVote California Student Mock Election is live; please click [here](#) to sign up. You will also find a Student Mock Election fact sheet describing the tools and resources that this project provides for running a successful mock election, as well as helpful hints for getting started.

For further information, please contact the Student Mock Election Team by email at MyVote@sos.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 651-3070.

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