



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Dr. Garry Eagles—Humboldt County Superintendent of Schools



What led you to become County Superintendent?

I had the opportunity to work with and for an incredible mentor, Dr. Louis Bucher, who served as Humboldt County Superintendent for 20 years. I served with him for nineteen of those years with the last fifteen as his Assistant Superintendent. When it came time for him to think about retiring, he encouraged me to run. I ran that first campaign

against a local district superintendent and won. I have been fortunate to have run unopposed in every election since.

What inspired you to enter the field of education?

I was pre-med attending Raymond College, one of three "cluster colleges" operated by the University of Pacific. Raymond's students were expected to engage themselves in some meaningful way in the community. Mind you, this was a long time before "community service" became a common component of high school and college curriculums. I chose to volunteer at Nightingale Elementary School in the south side of Stockton, located out by the airport. Nightingale's student population was diverse and very low income. I was so impressed by the dedication of the teachers and staff who worked there. Daily, I observed the difference they were making in the lives of those children and the joy and satisfaction their work brought to them. I decided I wanted to experience the same sense of joy and fulfillment. Thus, education became the "best medicine" for me.

Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

My grandmother lived with us when I was a child and I credit her with teaching me some very valuable lessons. Perhaps the most important principle she espoused was, "If you're going to do something, do it right." This admonition has been front and center for me my entire life and I strive to never forget the wisdom of her counsel.

What objectives do you hope to achieve?

I look at educational expenditures as investments and so I am constantly reviewing what we do in terms of "ROI," meaning gauging what we do in light of the value and return on our investment, both from an internal perspective and in the eyes of our "customers." So, each year I ask our staff to re-evaluate what it is we do, how well we're doing it, and where can we improve. As a result of routinely asking these key questions, everyone who works at HCOE knows they are a part of a dynamic organization where flexibility and continuous improvement are expected because these qualities are essential if we are to meet our customers' needs. As superintendent, my primary obligations are to "have the right people on the right bus," as Jim Collins would say. I also accept the responsibility to insure the bus keeps headed in the right direction. When I do eventually retire, I also want to be sure to leave the county office with sufficient financial resources so that the county superintendent that follows me not only has a strong foundation to build upon but also the resources to begin whatever he or she wishes to construct.

What are your interests?

I particularly enjoy promoting the arts within our local schools and within the community-at-large wherever I can. I have been known to "tickle the ivories" and to dab a little oil on canvas from time-to-time myself. I also enjoy cooking and exploring unusual flavor combinations and creating new recipes.

Who are the special people in your life?

I have been blessed with two very fine grown adult sons and two wonderful young ladies as my daughters-in-law. And while I don't have any grandchildren to dote upon, perhaps one day I will. The other special people in my life surround me every day at work. I have an incredible team at HCOE. They are talented, hard-working, inspirational, and they do amazing things for kids. I couldn't be more proud of all the special people in my life.

FROM THE DESK OF:

Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director

The 2015-16 state budget will be an important one for county offices of education and we need to start now identifying and planning for any needed corrections to the current funding model. By June 30 of next year, the maintenance of effort requirement for ROCP funding is scheduled to end and the significant increases in state funding for county offices in 2013-14 and 2014-15 will be completed.

Several issues will converge as we prepare for the 2015-16 state budget. The legislature has asked the Department of Finance to offer recommendations on the future treatment of ROCP and BTSA funding. We now have direct experience concerning the workload of reviewing school district LCAPs.

And many county offices have now had a chance to evaluate in greater detail the impact of operating under a "hold harmless" funding level for multiple years. In short, now is a logical time to evaluate and propose any needed modifications to the funding model.

BASC has been asked to review these issues, and county office funding will be an important topic on the agendas for both the Legislative Committee and the Board of Directors. On CCSESA staff, Sandra Morales and I will be taking the lead on this important project. Please contact either of us if you have ideas or concerns that you want to make sure are part of the conversation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCSESA Staff Addition:

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Efrain Mercado. Efrain has an extensive background in Common Core. Most recently, he was Project Director, Common Core Standards, for the National Association of State Boards of Education. Efrain will be the CCSESA staff lead on educational services policy issues. Contact Efrain at mercado@ccsesa.org.

August Board of Directors Meeting:

The next CCSESA Board of Directors meeting will take place via videoconference on August 4. Registration is now live on www.ccsesa.org.

October Quarterly Meeting:

The next CCSESA quarterly meeting will take place at Furnace Creek in Inyo County from October 12-14. Registration will be live soon. If you have questions regarding registration and/or hotel reservations, please contact Jessie Kroll-Yoas at jyoas@ccsesa.org.

New Superintendent Orientation:

This year, CCSESA will welcome 16 new county superintendents. The 2015 New Superintendents Orientation will take place on September 8 and 9 in Sacramento. Please contact Christina Marcellus or Sandra Morales if you have any questions about the event: cmarcellus@ccsesa.org, or smorales@ccsesa.org.

CCSESA STAFF

Peter Birdsall

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Sandra Morales

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Business Services Coordinator

Amanda Dickey

Project Coordinator

Christina Marcellus

Project Coordinator

Jessie Kroll-Yoas

Executive Assistant

JaConya Merchant

Executive Assistant

REGIONAL ARTS REPORT INCREASED CAPACITY BUILDING EFFORTS

In June, the eleven CCSESA Regional Arts Leads submitted reports on Hewlett grant deliverables for 2013-14. Reports and Online Management System data, indicate that the leads provided technical support and professional development services to 17,495 participating educators statewide involving 1,969 school, district, and community organizations. All eleven regional leads reported expanded work in support of the VAPA Standards and integration of arts learning with Common Core State Standards. Across regions, powerful examples of leadership included working with the California Alliance for Arts Education (CAAE) on Title I, working with individual arts organizations on grant making, working with individual school leaders on arts

plans, and presenting at state, regional, and county forums, institutes, and conferences.

In addition, the Regional Arts Leads collaborated on developing the following four professional development modules: *Leadership in the Arts and Common Core State Standards* (Regions 3, 4, and 11); *Arts integration as a Model of Rigorous Instruction* (Regions 2, 6, and 7); *Building Artistic Literacy through Common Core State Standards* (Regions 9 and 10); and *On Stage with English Language Learners: Theatre Arts and Language Development* (Regions 1, 5, and 8). Plans are in place to provide a statewide training in the fall focused on the new modules.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION VOTES ON E-RATE REFORM

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a modified version of Chairman Tom Wheeler's E-Rate modernization proposal in a 3-2 vote on Friday, July 11. Significant aspects of the proposal include plans to allocate \$2 billion in reserve funds to supplement installation of wireless infrastructure and equipment, phase-out support for non-broadband telecommunications services and prioritize consortium applications.

CCSESA's letter in support of the proposal elicited positive responses from national educational associations, including AASA and AESA. CCSESA's comments regarding the need to identify a sufficient funding source also appear to have been consistent with the intent of the Commission – the modified proposal approved Friday included

an acknowledgment that previously estimated savings had been overstated and a request for further comment regarding additional cost-saving methods. Please click [here](#) to read CCSESA's letter to the Commission.

While we ultimately consider the FCC's decision a "win" for schools, the Commission failed to respond to concerns over the adoption of a per-pupil allocation formula, which may disadvantage rural and low-income schools. The Commission also failed to address requests to increase the Priority 1 funding cap. It did, however, clarify that broadband requests would continue to receive priority over wireless requests. CCSESA will continue to stay actively engaged in these issues as further details of the proposal develop.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION—JULY MEETING UPDATE

The recent State Board of Education (SBE) meeting on July 9 and 10 addressed a wide array of important topics. The most notable items fell under the LCFF/LCAP umbrella. The Board approved the commencement of the 15 day window for public comment on the proposed LCFF Regulations and the LCAP Template. This window will be open from July 12, 2014 until July 28, 2014, and based off the number of people who spoke during the public hearing portion of the item, there will be significant response during the public comment period.

The Board also made determinations regarding assessments for the state. Board members approved the California Department of Education's (CDE) proposed plan for a full field test (including 100% of eligible students) in Spring 2015 using the assessment developed through the National Center and State Collaborative

(NCSC) consortium. This alternate assessment is for English-language arts (ELA) and mathematics based on alternate achievement standards aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Permanent regulations for the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessment system were also adopted.

The SBE meeting also saw significant developments regarding curriculum frameworks. The Board adopted the draft ELA/ELD Framework, and approved the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Curriculum Framework, in addition to approving the appointment of committee members to the curriculum framework and evaluation criteria committee.

Contact Efrain Mercado in the CCSESA office at mercado@ccsesa.org with any additional questions.

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