

LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Mr. Joe Silva—Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools



What led you to become County Superintendent?

Before becoming the County Superintendent twelve years ago, I was the superintendent at a local school district (Sonora) within the county. At that time, many of the area superintendents encouraged me to run against the first term incumbent who was pushing a controversial unification agenda. It took me three months

to make the decision to run, and I won in a decisive victory, ran unopposed for two additional terms and have not looked back since.

What inspired you to enter the field of education?

I was inspired to be a teacher because I wanted to help children learn to read. I enjoy reading and it came easy to me as a child, and I recognize that literacy is a fundamental tool for success in life, so I wanted to help kids learn the skill.

Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

The goals that drives me are to improve things that I am passionate about and to have influence and ability to improve. There are two stand-out as areas I will always be proud of. First is the work I have done in Washington D.C. on behalf of the National Forest Counties and Schools Coalition (NFCSC) to lobby lawmakers for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Communities Act for the benefit of all forest counties in our state and nation. On each occasion, the NFCSC team has been successful in achieving an extension of the bill, preserving the much needed funding to serve our students. Second, with support from Sonora Regional Medical Center and the Tuolumne County Public Health Department, we

ignited a collaboration to launch an aggressive program to eliminate childhood obesity in Tuolumne County. I made it clear to the team that I wasn't interested in reducing childhood obesity, I intended to *eliminate* it. So, with support from the medical and public health agencies, I gathered the support of some of the largest employers in the county in implementing an intensive program, targeting grades 5 and 7, where a nurse and fitness specialist work side-by-side with the teacher to teach healthy eating habits and physical fitness with the intended consequence that the outcome will yield higher academic achievement, self esteem, and life-long health. Today, our county's student's performance exceeds 50% of all students meeting healthy fitness standards as measured by the *Fitnessgram*.

What objectives do you hope to achieve?

I want our teachers to be ready for the Common Core State Standards, and they are. I wasn't sure our technology was ready to deliver the Smarter Balanced Assessment program, but we are getting there. Mostly, I want our students to respect one another through acts of kindness, and they are gaining the skills to do so.

What are your interests?

I love being a county school superintendent. It is a job that reflects my interests in education and my personality. After I retire at the end of the year I plan to return to fly fishing, running and spending more time developing my interest in watercolor painting.

Who are the special people in your life?

My wife Colleen is my closest friend. My kids and grandkids make me smile. I have a few very close friends that I like to 'hang' with. I am a lucky man.

ARCHIVED LCAP TRAINING WEBINARS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

WestEd recently conducted a series of three LCAP training webinars, which are now available on their LCFF Channel, located here: <http://lcff.wested.org/lcff-channel/>. The first webinar addressed Sections 1 and 2 of the LCAP (Stakeholder Engagement and Goals and Progress Indicators), the second addressed section 3 (Actions, Services and Expenditures) and the third was dedicated to answering questions that had arisen during the first and second. The

webinars each run for roughly 60 minutes, and presenters included Terena Mares (Marin, BASC Chair), Gary Waddell (San Mateo, CISC Chair), Jannelle Kubinec and Ann Hern (WestEd), Valerie Chrisman (Ventura, CISC Chair-Elect), Misty Key (Ventura), and the State Board of Education's Elisa Wynne. We will keep our membership updated of any additional upcoming webinars or training opportunities.

FROM THE DESK OF:

Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director

This week we sent out a request to county superintendents, asking them to provide us a brief description of the status of efforts in their counties to transition funding for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs to the new LCFF funding model. We are hoping to receive a broadly representative set of responses from across the state.

This request reflects at least two remarkable characteristics of CCSESA. First, it demonstrates CCSESA's ability to relatively quickly pull together credible information from across the state. We already know that key staff to the Governor and Legislature are very interested to learn "what is really going on out there."

Second, it reflects CCSESA's ongoing commitment to quality CTE programs. Whether individual county superintendents supported continuation of categorical funding for regional occupational centers and programs, or consolidating those funds in the new LCFF system, they have all been working to ensure successful transition under the new funding model.

We are confident there will be great interest in the responses we receive and that they will better inform the final decisions in the 2014-15 budget debate.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June Quarterly Meeting:

The next CCSESA quarterly meeting will take place in Lake Tahoe in El Dorado County from June 22-24. If you have questions regarding registration and/or hotel reservations, please contact Jessie Kroll-Yoas at the CCSESA office at jyoas@ccsesa.org.

CCBE Spring Newsletter:

The California County Boards of Education (CCBE) released its CORE Spring Newsletter, which features an overview written by Peter Birdsall on the recent accomplishments of county offices and boards of education. The full CCBE newsletter is available on their website by clicking [here](#).

CCSESA Arts Initiative Releases 2014 Edition of *Counties on the Move*:

This year's edition of *Counties on the Move*, an arts publication that highlights the innovative ways in which counties are incorporating arts education into their core curriculum, is now available electronically. Please visit the Arts Initiative page of the CCSESA website to download the document (<http://ccsesa.org/special-projects/arts-initiative/>).

CCSESA Staff Addition:

Please join us in welcoming our newest staff member, Amanda Dickey. Amanda is a recent McGeorge Law School graduate, and will work extensively in legislative and policy matters.

2015 CCSESA Meeting Calendar:

The meeting dates for 2015 have been approved and are available on the CCSESA website by clicking [here](#).

CCSESA STAFF

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LAKE COUNTY'S "HERO PROGRAM" PROMOTES PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The Lake County Office of Education (LCOE) has partnered with First 5, local hospitals and service organizations to initiate "The Hero Project." About a year ago, LCOE established a "0-8 Task Force" to investigate services and programs that promote student success by the third grade. Research tells us that children who are successful students by the third grade are more apt to be successful as adults. With that in mind, the Task Force chose to focus on strategies and activities that would truly engage parents as their child's first teacher, and "The Hero Project" was born.

"The Hero Project" is a locally designed and developed county-wide initiative that will serve as the vehicle to connect the many existing service providers, programs and services with every parent and child in Lake County. LCOE, First 5

and local hospitals serve as the collaborative leads in the initiation of this project. Funding is provided by the various service agencies, grants and community service organizations in Lake County. "The Hero Project" has a ten month implementation cycle that includes one month of development, eight months of specific "themed" topics and a ramp down month. The topics for each month include: *Be a Hero: Read*, *Be a Hero: Play*, *Be a Hero: Eat Together*, etc. The topics are introduced through several venues that recognize busy parents' lifestyles, and rely heavily on social media.

This project can easily be replicated in other counties and communities. For more information please contact Wally Holbrook, Lake County Superintendent of Schools, or Shelly Mascari, LCOE Communications Director, at (707) 262-4100.

CCSESA ARTS INITIATIVE TO LAUNCH CREATIVITY AT THE CORE GRANT PROGRAM



On May 14 and 15, 2014, CCSESA Arts Initiative launched the Creativity at the Core grant program at an orientation held at Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom which involved teams from across the state. Regional Arts Leads County Offices chose arts organization partners to work with collaboratively on the development and piloting of professional arts learning modules and resources aligned to Common Core State Standards that will be part of an online repository on the CCSESA Arts Website (www.ccsesaarts.org).

This program is sponsored through generous funding from The California Arts Council and

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. New partners that will be part of the program will be: North Dance Company (Eureka); The Music Center (LA); Crocker Art Museum (Sacramento); California Musical Theatre (Sacramento); Teaching Artists Guild (San Francisco); El Teatro Campesino (San Juan Bautista); Gallo Center for the Arts (Modesto); Fresno Arts Council (Fresno); Museum of Ventura County (Ventura); The Old Globe Theatre (San Diego); PLACE Performance (Hemet); and Arts for All (LA).

If you would like more information on the grant program, please contact CCSESA's Sarah Anderberg (sanderberg@ccsesa.org) or Cindy Ridley (cridley@ccsesa.org).

COUNTY OFFICES RECOGNIZED BY CDE

The Los Angeles and Santa Clara County Offices of Education were recently acknowledged by the State Department of Education for their efforts to improve student academic outcomes. The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) was honored in the Distinguished School program for its administration of Bullis Charter School in Los Altos. Distinguished School awards are granted to public elementary and secondary schools that demonstrate "innovative approaches to improving student academic achievement." As stated in the press release announcing the winners, schools must meet a set of rigorous criteria to be eligible to apply as a Distinguished School. Schools that receive the award must agree to share their signature practices and "become a mentor to those seeking to replicate their work." Bullis Charter was one of 30 schools that received an

additional *Exemplary Program* award for great work in arts education or physical activity and nutrition. For more information on the Distinguished School Program, click [here](#). You may visit the Bullis Charter School website [here](#).

The Los Angeles County Office of Education received the Title I Academic Achievement Award for its administration of Los Angeles International Charter High. Schools that receive federal Title I dollars are eligible for the award, provided they demonstrate that "students are making significant progress toward proficiency on California's academic content standards." The school's population of socioeconomically disadvantaged students also must meet additional goals. For more information on this award program, click [here](#). Congratulations to both the Santa Clara and Los Angeles County Offices of Education for the well-deserved recognition.

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