



LEADERSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

Ms. Robin Hopper—Mariposa County Superintendent of Schools



What led you to become County Superintendent?

I did not really aspire to become a County Superintendent. However, as I am nearly finished with my Ed.D., I began planning to look for a District Superintendent position for the 2015-16 school year. As fate would have it, the Mariposa County Unified School District Superintendent position opened up, and along with it, the office of Mariposa County Superintendent. Mariposa County is where I grew up and attended school from first grade through high school. I knew that both the County Office of Education and the District were in need of stability and a leader who understood the community. So I threw my hat in the ring and four months into the job I am loving the challenges and successes as I work to build partnerships between the community and our schools.

What inspired you to enter the field of education?

I have aspired to be a master teacher since my very earliest memories. I had wonderful teachers growing up in very small, rural schools in Mariposa. My grandmother inspired me to go to college, and I am the first college graduate in my immediate and extended family. Giving students the inspiration to reach their full academic and personal potential was my reason for becoming an educator.

Do you have a particular goal that drives you?

My father and uncle both worked in the California correctional system dealing with juvenile and young adult offenders. What

drives me daily is the fight for the underdog. The moral imperative that we have to ensure our resources provide equity and opportunity for ALL students, and especially for historically underserved populations is the core of my belief system.

What objectives do you hope to achieve?

Enhancing the transparency, respect and collaboration within and among agencies and community stakeholders is a critical mission. We will also be implementing Instructional Rounds as a county-wide network strategy to assist with school improvement efforts. Full implementation of CCSS and establishing digital connectivity in our remote parts of the county are high priorities.

What are your interests?

I am very active in my church and several service organizations. I am also an adventurous person and when I can find the time I love traveling, sky diving and horseback riding.

Who are the special people in your life?

My husband Yancy and I have been married for 29 years. We have two beautiful daughters who are both taking time out of their college careers right now to serve full time missions for our church. We lost our son, Luke, to the war in Iraq nearly five years ago, but he remains with us in spirit and thought daily. Our family, friends and faith have strengthened us and helped us turn tragedy into hope and positive celebrations of Luke's short life. We have found so many ways to honor him by giving back to others.

WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE HOSTS FORUM ON ARTS EDUCATION AT PIXAR STUDIOS

The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics hosted a national policy forum on arts and music at Pixar Studios in Emeryville on August 27. The keynote for the forum was County Superintendent Richard Carranza of SFUSD who inspired the audience of over 150 arts and education leaders from across the nation. "If you capture students' interest, their intellect, commitment, and minds will follow," said Superintendent Carranza. He shared how the power of the arts impacted his life - as a student who began school not speaking English and found his voice through music, and later as a music

teacher in Tucson, AZ, who gave his students their voice through a nationally recognized Mariachi program that saw 90% of the students graduate from high school. US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined the forum via video conference and shared, "We cannot promote a brighter future for our students and our country without advocating for the arts as a critical subject in education. The President and I agree — the arts are so important when it comes to student learning, achievement, and success."

To read more about National Arts Education Week forums celebrated in September, click [here](#).

FROM THE DESK OF:

Peter Birdsall, CCSESA Executive Director

A critical agenda item at our October Quarterly meeting will be reaching agreement on a proposal to take forward to the Department of Finance and Governor's Office regarding county office of education funding. BASC is working hard on the development and analysis of options. To effectively prepare for the October meeting, I urge you to meet with your CBO to discuss the proposal and its potential impact. In brief, the proposal involves three key elements:

- Increased funding for county offices of education, primarily related to the increased workload of LCAP review and approval;
- Relief for county offices that currently face years with no additional state funding, due to the impact of the "hold harmless" provisions of current law;

- Proposals to address the Legislature's concerns about the future treatment of multi-agency services that were formerly supported with categorical education funding, notably BTSA and ROCs.

Another important purpose of the October meeting will be to welcome new county superintendents and offer congratulations and best wishes to those who are retiring from office. According to registrations for the conference, eight of the new county superintendents will be attending our October meeting. At our dinner on Monday, October 13, we will be honoring nine retiring county superintendents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Watkins Selected as CCEE Board Member:

Congratulations to Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools and CCSESA Past-President Michael Watkins, who was selected by the Senate Rules Committee to serve on the newly-established five member Board of the California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE). The Collaborative is charged with ensuring LEAs receive the support necessary to reach the goals identified in their LCAPs.

October Quarterly Meeting:

The next Quarterly Meeting will take place at Furnace Creek in Inyo county from October 12-14. For questions regarding agenda items, hotel reservations or travel, contact JaConya Merchant: jmerchant@ccsesa.org.

December Board of Directors Meeting:

The next CCSESA Board meeting is scheduled for December 8 at the SELF Building in Sacramento. There will be a luncheon immediately following the meeting. Additional information will be available soon.

CCSESA STAFF

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THE LCAP EXPERIENCE—YEAR ONE

On September 4, CCSESA representatives Stan Mantooth (Ventura County Superintendent of Schools and CCSESA President), Terena Mares (Marin Deputy Superintendent and BASC Chair), and Gary Waddell (San Mateo Deputy Superintendent and CISC Chair) presented to the State Board of Education on the first year of LCAP review and approval processes from the perspective of County Offices of Education. The [presentation](#) (starting at minute 17) focused on the key themes of:

- Support offered by County Offices of Education to LEAs;
- Collaboration efforts and capacity building of COEs;
- COE structure and process for LCAP review;
- Initial observations of COEs from LCAP year one; and
- Looking ahead to year two of LCAP review and technical assistance.

The CCSESA representatives emphasized the importance of ongoing collaboration between district and county offices.

As a follow up to that presentation, the State Board has requested another presentation

during their next meeting which is scheduled for November 14. For this presentation the State Board is interested in taking a deeper dive into the key theme of "Looking Ahead to Year Two of LCAP Review and Technical Assistance."

The State Board specifically expressed interest in learning more about how COEs are leveraging the experience gained this year, coupled with a full year to implement. An important theme will be CCSESA's continued commitment to professional development and technical assistance to support school districts and county offices. Potential topics for the presentation are:

- COE plans for technical assistance to LEAs on the updated template and the first iteration of Annual Updates;
- The plans for updating the 2014-15 resources for LCAP review and approval; and
- The issue of adequate funding for county office review and approval of school district LCAPs.

If you have any comments or would like to share promising practices/information, please contact Efrain Mercado, CCSESA's Policy Director, at emercado@ccsesa.org.

EVALUATION RUBRIC DESIGN: STATUS REPORT

The evaluation rubrics (as required in Education Code 52064.5) are widely seen as a critical component of LCFF implementation. Current statute outlines that by October 1, 2015 the State Board of Education shall adopt evaluation rubrics for the purposes of:

- Assisting LEAs in evaluating their strengths, weaknesses, and areas that require improvement;
- Assisting a county superintendent of schools in identifying LEAs in need of technical assistance and to help identify the specific areas in which that technical assistance should be focused; and
- Assisting the State Superintendent in identifying school districts for which intervention is warranted.

These evaluation rubrics shall also reflect a holistic, multidimensional assessment of school district and individual schoolsite performance and shall include all of the state priorities. The law also states that as a part of the evaluation rubrics, the state board shall adopt standards for school district and individual schoolsite performance and expectation for improvement in regard to each of the state priorities.

The State Board of Education has contracted with WestEd to facilitate and shepherd the development of the rubrics with significant contributions from the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education staff. Part of the development plan has been to establish a Rubric Design Group, which includes county office representatives. Work on the rubrics will be informed by the following working groups: the Practitioner and Community group, the Policy Group, and the Research Group.

For more information related to this plan, go to: <http://lcff.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Local-Control-Funding-Formula-Rubric-Design-Overview-August-2014.pdf>.

It is anticipated that the draft rubrics will be available for review and comment by spring of 2015. CCSESA will continue to stay actively engaged with the Evaluation Rubric development process. For more information the Evaluation Rubrics please visit <http://lcff.wested.org/lcff-channel/>.

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