



# CCSESA *Leadership Link*

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## Executive Director's Corner

The feedback I have heard regarding the CISC Symposium in Monterey and the County CBO Conference in Sacramento has been wonderful. Congratulations to the leadership of CISC and BASC, and to the organizers of those two conferences.

Congratulations also to Stan Mantooh, who was invited by the State Senate Budget Committee to participate on a panel of superintendents to discuss the Governor's Local Control Funding Formula. Stan did a wonderful job describing the inequities and inadequacies of county funding, and our collaborative work with the Department of Finance to develop a plan with broad-based support to address those problems.

It was also encouraging to hear district superintendents, notably Mike Hansen of Fresno Unified School District and Tony Smith of Oakland Unified School District, tell the Senate Committee about the important role played by county offices.

The good news and the bad news of the Governor's budget proposal is that it is focusing more attention on county offices of education. County superintendents should make sure they are staying in touch with their local state legislators about the important roles you play in fiscal accountability, common core implementation, and providing needed alternative education services.

Peter Birdsall  
Executive Director

## Leadership Spotlight: Ms. Bettina Blackwell, Trinity County Superintendent of Schools

**What led you to become County Superintendent?** I have a desire to make a difference in the community that I grew up in. I am fortunate to be working in my hometown and excited to be of service to the community, the districts, the students and the parents.

**What inspired you to enter the field of education?** My husband and I were raising children and doing foster care. I knew that if I wanted to have a larger impact on what happened to children, I would need to do something else. I also had a sister who struggled in school. I remember thinking that there must be some way to help her. These two things were the driving forces behind me going into education.

**Do you have a particular goal that drives you?** My goal has always been to do what is good for kids. I

worked for a Superintendent who always asked, "What is best for kids?" and based his decisions on the answer. My ultimate life goals are to respect others, do what is right, and be honest in all things.

### What objectives do you hope to achieve?

I have made some staffing changes and hope to have a full team working by fall. I am following an icon in our community (Jim French) so I hope that I don't do anything that discredits him in any way. He left me a wonderful group of people to work with. Given that I am reorganizing some staff and duties, I hope to continue doing the good things our office is known for, with less staff and even less money.

**What are your interests?** I am an avid reader



and used to quilt. My husband and I like to travel, and do so as often as time permits. Any other spare time I have is spent with my family, preferably near a swimming pool.

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

My family, specifically my husband, my five children and their spouses and my 15 grandchildren as well as my 5 foster daughters and their families.

## CCSESA and CA PTA Co-Sponsor Arts Luncheon

In celebration of March as Arts Education Month, regional and parent arts education leaders will be convening in Sacramento on March 12 to join state and legislative leaders and discuss why arts learning is so important for 21st Century student success. Join us for a luncheon *Celebrating Arts Learning in California Schools* sponsored by CCSESA in partnership with the CA PTA. The event will feature presentations and round table discussions to explore ways to promote quality, equity, and access for learning in the visual and performing arts as part of the core

curriculum. All those participating will receive a free pass to the museum. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot today!

**Date:** March 12, 2013

**Time:** 12:00 noon—2:00 p.m.

**Location:** The California Museum, 1020 O Street Sacramento, CA 95814

**Parking:** <http://www.californiamuseum.org/directions>

**Registration:** <http://ccsesaarts.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?gid=403&id=68312>

**Contact:** Cindy Ridley at CCSESA at [cr Ridley@ccsesa.org](mailto:cr Ridley@ccsesa.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Local Control Funding Formula Videoconference.** On March 11 from 11am-1pm, we will host a videoconference discussion regarding the Local Control Funding Formula. If you have questions regarding the videoconference and viewing site information, please contact Grace Vote in the CCSESA office at [gvote@ccsesa.org](mailto:gvote@ccsesa.org), or at (916) 446-3095.

**JCCASAC Annual Conference.** The Juvenile Court, Community, and Alternative School Administrators of California will hold its 44th annual conference, *Prisms of Possibility*, on May 15-17, at the Hyatt Regency Monterey. Featuring keynote speakers Richard Santana and Derek Clark, the conference will spotlight the potential of alternative education students and highlight California's outstanding programs. Information is available at <http://www.regonline.com/jccasac2013>.

**SEACO Conference.** The Special Education Administrators of County Offices subcommittee will conduct a workshop series called the SEACO Preschool Learning Foundations Training of Trainers. To register for the next available training in Sonoma County on March 25, search Events>Trainings at [www.ccsesa.org](http://www.ccsesa.org).

### CCSESA

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## CISC Leadership Symposium and CBO Conference

The month of February featured two important CCSESA-sponsored conferences. The Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) Leadership Symposium took place February 20-22 at the Monterey Convention Center and Monterey Marriott hotel. The sold out event hosted over 900 attendees, including 19 of our county superintendents. The event featured an impressive lineup of keynote speakers, including author Daniel Pink, educator and physicist Eric Mazur and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. The conference earned outstanding feedback, and was a great success. Thanks go to the three event sponsors: Fresno County Office of Education, Scholastic and Corwin. Special thanks also go to this year's Symposium Chair, Kathryn Catania, and Ventura County's Stephany Prater, who

spearheaded event registration and logistics.

The Business and Administrators Steering Committee (BASC) Chief Business Officials conference was also held Feb 20-22. This year's theme was "The Many Faces of School Business." Over 200 county office employees attended the conference in Sacramento, and topics ranged from School Debt Oversight and Pension Reform to the Local Control Funding Formula, and Understanding Common Core State Standards and Smarter Balanced Assessments. BASC would like to thank President Michael Watkins for coming from Santa Cruz to open the conference. Planning for both annual events is already underway for 2014.

## Legislative Update

This legislative session, 2134 measures have been introduced, with over 200 related to K-12 Education. CCSESA staff reviewed the bills and identified proposals in the following critical issue areas: school funding, student assessment, Proposition 39, teacher evaluation and dismissal, capital appreciation bonds, school safety, and technology. However, many of the proposal bills are still a "work in progress." The first

key deadline for legislation is to pass their first policy committees by May 10. The CCSESA Legislative Committee will review and take positions on these topic areas, and the related bills, on behalf of the Association at its March 21 conference call. As the bills become further developed, they will be brought to the Legislative Committee on April 14 at the general membership meeting in Long Beach.

## Sequestration and its Impact on California Schools

On March 1, sequestration went into effect. Democrats and Republicans were unable to reach an agreement to prevent the roughly \$85 billion in across-the-board spending cuts to defense and non-defense programs. CCSESA has been at the forefront of this issue since its inception, and will continue to lobby for a solution and champion the best interests of California schools and superintendents, and will take full advantage of the April Federal Advocacy trip to do so. Should Congress and Administration fail to act, the cuts that began on the first could become permanent. Current projections indicate that California will suffer an overall loss of over \$260 million to students and

schools, including: a loss of \$91 million in Title 1 funding, a loss of \$72 million in IDEA funding, a loss of \$6.9 million in Career Technical Education, an immediate loss of \$6.9 million in Impact Aid and the elimination of Head Start and Early Head Start services for 8,200 children. Bob Canavan, CCSESA's federal legislative advocate, encourages county superintendents, county offices of education, school districts, parents and community leaders impacted by the cuts to inform their Representatives and Senators of the harmful impacts sequestration will have on students and schools.