



OCSBA
Orange County School Boards Association

**Orange County
School Boards
Association**

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SPOTLIGHT ON NEWS

Winter 2010 Edition



A Message from the OCSBA President – Sharon Wallin

I hope your winter break brought peaceful moments with family and friends. The New Year has already brought in major changes and challenges for public education. With the recent legislation regarding Race to the Top, we are faced with new regulations that will affect our students for decades to come.

In addition to the recent events surrounding Race to the Top, the Governor has just presented his budget for next fiscal year, promising he will “protect education.” Most of us are scratching our heads, asking what the Governor’s “promise” actually means. It is hard to believe that education is being protected when districts are repeatedly forced to cut important programs and reduce the number of teachers and staff, with no clear end in sight at least for the next several years. Certainly we understand why education *should* be protected—an educated citizenry is the key to a state’s economy and future. The question is whether education is in fact receiving the protection it clearly deserves – the protection the Governor has promised.

I believe we must each take a moment to consider how we, the education community, can help protect education *ourselves*. I hope we come to understand that as educational leaders, we are given the awesome responsibility to guard the education of our students; defend their futures; and shield their tremendous potential from harm. We have no other choice but to roll up our sleeves and get to work. Our students’ education needs to be protected... by us!

Sharon Wallin

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State Schools Chief Jack O’Connell Announces New Web Tool to Help Educational Agencies Close the Achievement Gap

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell has announced the launch of *Signature Practices*, a new Web-based searchable database of effective strategies used by California Distinguished Schools to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap. This new resource for schools is based on recommendations made by O’Connell’s P-16 Council in its *Closing the Achievement Gap* report. To find out more about *Signature Practices* or to access the data base, please visit www.closingtheachievementgap.org.

RACE TO THE TOP

Provided by
CCSESA State Legislative Committee



Race to the Top (RttT) is authorized under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (AARA). Funded by Congress it is the largest amount of discretionary money ever dedicated to education reform. It will be directly tied to four key areas of reform as outlined by the Department of Education:

- adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals;
- building data systems that measure student success and inform teachers and principals how they can improve their practices; and
- turning around our lowest performing schools.

States that receive a Race to the Top (RttT) grant must use at least 50 percent of the funds to provide sub grants to local educational agencies (LEAs), including charter schools, based on their relative share of Title I funding. The remaining funds are available to the State for state level activities and awards to LEAs and other entities through the use of formulas or competitive grant processes. LEAs that choose to participate in their State's RttT proposal must agree to use their funding to support the State's plan.

California submitted its RttT application January 19, 2010. The first round of grants to states is expected to be announced in April 2010. States are required to share Race to the Top funding with school districts. A second round of applications will be taken in June 2010 and final awards will be made in September 2010.

The President's 2011 budget will include additional funding for Race to the Top grants to states and local school districts. The President has already called for an additional \$1.3 billion in funding for Race to the Top and that is expected to be a recommendation in the Administration's 2011 Budget proposal.

Thoughts from the Annual CSBA Conference



- "The conference was very good ... I learned the most in *How to Do More With Less \$\$ in Special Education* and *Going Green: Irvine USD'S Journey Towards Greater Energy Efficiency*." – Minard Duncan, Fullerton School District.
- "This year's' conference was well organized... It's difficult spending the money to come, but it's an important part of our continuing effective governance." – Sharon Brown, La Habra City Elementary School District.
- "Carol Channing and Harry Kullijian made the point that the arts are vitally important to keeping students connected to school and to society. Living in a state where we try to assimilate so many children and their families from different backgrounds and cultures, doing what we can to retain, protect, or return the arts to the educational menu is a battle worth waging." – Karin Freeman, Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District.



*Darin Woinarowicz, Kristen
Crellin, and Rudy Hanley,
SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union*



*Dr. Dore Gilbert, Board Member,
Saddleback Valley
Unified School District*

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Saddleback Valley School Board Member Honored with Prestigious Maureen DiMarco Award

On Wednesday, October 14, 2009, the Orange County School Boards Association honored SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union and Dr. Dore Gilbert, a 28-year veteran of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District Board of Education, with the Maureen DiMarco Award. The award recognizes exemplary and far-reaching leadership in exhibiting vision and inspiring others to action in addressing the broad needs of young people. Since it was first presented in 1993 to recognize the exceptional contributions of Maureen DiMarco, who served as California's first Cabinet Secretary for Child Development and Education, President of California School Boards Association, and President of Orange County School Boards Association, the award has been given to only eight individuals.

Rudy Hanley, President and Chief Executive Officer, accepted the award on behalf of SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union. The education community has been served by SchoolsFirst for seventy five years with true dedication, caring service, and generosity to its family of members with the philosophy of "People Helping People."

SchoolsFirst takes its sense of community seriously. They have offered innovative financial opportunities to members during challenging times, and the customer service delivered to members is exceptional. SchoolsFirst employees volunteer their valuable time in service to Orange County students by assisting with events such as the Orange County Academic Pentathlon and Decathlon. In addition, financial support and exceptional gifts are provided for the Orange County Classified Employees of the Year and the Orange County Teachers of the Year celebrations, as well as support for numerous other conferences, meetings, celebrations and competitions throughout the county.

Dr. Gilbert, a world-renowned dermatologist, has led a life of volunteerism in the community. He has been active in PTA, volunteered for the Fire Department, coached baseball, football, and soccer, and served on the Coastline Regional Occupational Program Board. In addition, he served as a member of Congressman Ron Packard's Steering Committee on Drug and Alcohol Abuse.

His greatest accomplishment is shared with his wife, Gloria. They have raised five children who graduated from Saddleback schools. His youngest son recently joined the Marine Corps. Dr. Gilbert himself has had a lifetime desire to serve the country, and he has decided to put his career on hold so he can join the Army. He reported to basic training in Texas in January.



OCSBA/ACSA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2010
Irvine Marriott Hotel

Political Action Group Efforts (PAGE) Meeting

Michael Kilbourn, President

Legislative and Management Strategies, Inc.
and

Bob Canavan, Federal Lobbyist and President/CEO

Federal Management Strategies, Inc.

present

“Federal and State Update Race to the Top, (RttT) and More”

Bob Canavan will join Michael Kilbourn, via conference call, to provide federal and state fiscal and legislative updates. Hear the latest about Race to the Top, Reauthorization of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), and relevant issues.

Through partnership with SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union, OCSBA and ACSA are able to discount dinner prices from the usual \$51.00 per person to \$31.00 (tax, tip, self-parking included). We extend our sincere gratitude to SchoolsFirst for their ongoing support of public education.

Dinner Speaker

Suzette Lovely, Writer

and Assistant Superintendent, Personnel Services
Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District

presents

“Building a Generationally-Friendly Learning Community”

While anyone holding a job in this shaky economy is grateful, it doesn't make generational clashes any less difficult. This presentation will help us look at career ideals, employee expectations, and public demands through a generational lens. When school boards and superintendents find ways to point cross age arrows in the same direction, districts are able to develop the learning communities that drive student achievement. Lovely is the author of three books, including *Generations at School*, which is the focus of her presentation. Suzette also writes for *The School Administrator* magazine and *Galileo for Superintendents*, published by the Master Teacher.

OCSBA Web Site

The Orange County School Boards Association website includes OCSBA activities, the Board of Directors, a calendar of events, current and past issues of the newsletter, and awards information. Please visit us at <http://ocsba.ocde.us>.

SAVE THE DATES!



OCSBA/ACSA Joint Dinner Meeting

Wednesday, March 3, 2010, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM

OCSBA Annual Dinner Meeting/2010-2011 Board Elections

Wednesday, May 5, 2010, PAGE 5:30, Social 6:00, Dinner 6:30 PM