



# NEWSLETTER

Fun Fantastic Festivities!

## OUR MISSION

California Association of Directors of Activities was established in 1957. CADA is the largest statewide support network for Activities Directors in the nation. Our mission is to promote and support leadership development through student activities.



## TOP 10 FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR ASB CLASS AT THE END OF THE YEAR IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER!

10. Assign students to create a slideshow for your class or the whole school.
9. Have them advise underclassmen from Seniors or 8th grade. Create a short slide presentation and share it with the whole class.
8. Goals Check: reflect on your class goals and check off how you did, look forward to what you can do next year.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CADA, thank you for taking part in the CADA Spirit Games Convention in Reno. I know that I enjoyed seeing all of the attendees dressing up every day, smiling, laughing, having fun, while participating in the games hosted by the Area Councils. Every game I watched I was able to adapt it for my school to use at a rally or lunchtime event. It was awesome celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the CADA Convention, with over 1800 of my closest friends. Recognizing many of the people from the first 60 years in a wonderful tribute video. It is always a revitalizing experience seeing old friends, networking and making new friends at the convention. A record 102 participants in the scholarship run, quick shout out to Suzy and her team.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## JOE MCMAHON

CADA President  
Hanford West High School  
[jmcmahon@cadaboard.org](mailto:jmcmahon@cadaboard.org)

The exhibitors in the hall brought their A game to help support, provide resources, and offer new ideas to all those in attendance. The nightly networking events each evening hosted by our terrific sponsors were inclusive, diverse, and welcoming to all. Each of the keynote speakers inspired us on our main stage. Joe Beckman explained how “Human Connection Matters” and will be part of the legacy that we will create at our schools. Branden Farbstien, gave us the reason to be that “person” for our students on our campuses, and Dr. Shree Walker, taught us to understand that “Change starts with M.E.E.” and that we have the opportunity to “impact the human spirit.” We had so many amazing workshops to learn and grow from throughout the whole convention. Thank you to the many people who made the CADA Spirit Games Convention possible. I hope that you are able to use the games, events and were inspired to “Make A Difference Everyday!”

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## CADA VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

**MELISSA EDSALL**  
CADA Vice President  
Douglass Middle School  
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Hey there! The CADA Convention was such a blast, wasn't it? The Spirit Games were especially awesome—I'm still riding that high! It's incredible how much inspiration and knowledge we gain from each other at these events. After spending a week with my CADA family, I always feel ready to tackle whatever challenges come my way for the rest of the year!

I am truly humbled and thrilled to serve as your CADA Vice President for the upcoming year. CADA has my heart, and I am so excited to serve all of you. My journey with CADA began in my freshman year of high school, and it has been a driving force in my life ever since. Now, as I embark on this new chapter of leadership, I am eager to continue growing alongside all of you.

Currently, I am an educator at Douglass Middle School, where I have the privilege of teaching our WEB Leadership class, as well as 7th and 8th-grade ASB Leadership classes. Additionally, I serve as our campus RTI Specialist for the other half of my day. I find that these roles complement each other well, as student activities play a pivotal role in shaping our school culture and student experience. Our shared goal is to cultivate a strong sense of community and to create an environment where students feel valued and inspired every day.

Integrating PBIS principles into student activities and Tier 1 engagements is a powerful way to deepen connections on our campus. As Activity Directors, we understand that what we do has an impact on students' experiences and their sense of belonging. By aligning our efforts with PBIS, we not only reinforce positive behaviors but also cultivate a culture of respect and inclusion. We all know that building relationships and fostering student engagement are at the heart of our work. When students feel connected to their school community, they are more likely to thrive academically and socially. This is where CADA shines—providing a supportive network where we can share ideas, collaborate, and lend a helping hand to one another.

I have a quote as a part of my email signature from The Original Mike Smith, a mentor of mine, and it says, “All too often 'good enough' is where the 'weak hearts' stop. It keeps the very best in them from rising to the top. 'Enough' implies just getting by, and 'good' falls short of best. So 'good enough' is average stuff and seldom meets the test. But you don't have to settle there. You have what it takes. Push yourself to do your best; it's how you get the 'breaks'. Remember that the choice is yours and you alone choose either; But those who win are those that know that 'good enough' is neither!” By taking on any role in the student activities world on your campus, you are already choosing neither. Thank you for all that you do for students, it will be my honor to serve you over the next four years.





# MEETING THE PANTHER PACK

## MILAAD KEYVAN AND ISABELLA MAGAÑA

Fred Newhart Middle School



It all started with me thinking, this kid would be awesome on camera. I spent the rest of the night pondering why I hadn't yet included this one kid in our morning video announcements. The next day, I smoothed out all of the details. I found how I could subtly film the guy I so desperately wanted to film, who would be on camera with him (hint, it was Milaad), and what they would be doing on screen. And that was how Meeting the Panther Pack started.

So, what even is Meeting the Panther Pack? It is our, the inclusivity commissioners, job to try and make sure that every voice is heard and this is how we do it. Every week we walk around the school, trying to find a random student from each grade and a staff member to interview. We want to get a spontaneous, natural response from each person so that our message is entertaining for everyone to watch. Because of that goal, we do not film leadership students and do not tell our interviewees the questions beforehand. We make an effort to choose diverse questions to make it more interesting for our peers to watch. We usually just walk around the school and ask people if they want to be filmed, but sometimes people come up to us and ask to be filmed which is the greatest feeling in the world knowing that someone out there knows you.

Tips for making your own interview segment for videos:

1. Film your friends first. Recording people you know helps you find your flow and secures your process. It also assists the school in getting used to the interviews.
2. Find entertaining questions. We looked up "funny questions to ask strangers" and then made a whole list of questions to use. We try to get random questions like "What is the worst song to get stuck in your head all day long? Will you sing me a verse?" and "Do you think you're tall?"
3. Get an outsider's opinion. Humor varies, especially between leadership students and our peers. I (Isabella) always ask my brother his opinion while filming and editing the video. We also have our friend pick the questions we ask, so we get another layer of humor.
4. Make sure you film everyone. We walk around the school, stopping in the office and at different lunch tables, when we try to find people to film. The two of us also attempt to film different genders, races, friend groups, etc.
5. Get the proper supplies and know how to use it. We bought a microphone to use because we film students during lunch and it gets LOUD. Our microphone helps single out voices and creates a sense of professionalism.

Of course with any activity like this, there are many pros and cons but they never hold us back.

Some pros that we have seen are the following:

- More people watch the video announcements because maybe they will see someone they know.

- People want to participate, they get excited when they see Milaad walking around.
- It's fun and connects the school. You see all types of people on the video announcements now, not just the standard leadership student.

As we said before, there are some cons to this, we are teenagers after all.

- People love photobombing. It takes forever to edit them out. However, if you film in front of a wall, there's no problem.
- It takes the entire lunch, plus after school hours, to film and edit the video.

In the end, this is a great way to bring your school together and get your classmates involved. Students generally love being in the spotlight and this is a surefire way to get all your peers excited about doing fun activities like this. By taking all of our advice and being aware of all the pros and cons, this interview process should be a huge success. Go out there, come up with a catchy title, advertise a lot to your students, and see the growth of your new weekly activity. There are always new things to learn about your scholars and we invite you to go out and learn everything by filming yourself asking them random questions.

**YOU KEEP THE CALENDARS FILLED,  
THE SCHOOL YEAR MOVING AND  
THE STUDENTS ENERGIZED.**

**YOU ARE WORTH CELEBRATING.**

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# AREA COORDINATOR MESSAGES

## WELCOME NEW AREA COORDINATORS



**AREA A**

### AREA A COORDINATOR

**Jill Mortensen**

[areaA@cada1.org](mailto:areaA@cada1.org)

[www.cada1.org/areaA](http://www.cada1.org/areaA)

As a CADA member for the past 18 years, a member of the Area A Council for close to 10 years, assistant coordinator for Area A, and Print Media Coordinator for the board, my goal in my involvement has always been to help others. In a world that oftentimes seems overwhelming with little training or support, CADA has always been a safe haven where one can come to learn about activities, curriculum, and most importantly, to find your people to help you grow. In all that I have experienced and done in my time as an activities director and with CADA, I will continue, in my new role, to serve the membership by helping others to find success in all they wish to accomplish. Together, we are stronger, and together we change the lives of so many students, staff, our community and our school cultures.

**AREA B**

### AREA B COORDINATOR

**Laura Saldana**

[areaB@cada1.org](mailto:areaB@cada1.org)

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I could not be more excited to serve as Area B Coordinator. CADA has had such an impact on my program, school, and life and I am passionate about giving back to this organization and its members. I was an Activities Director at a middle school for five years before moving to Westmont High School eleven years ago to continue in that role. I have been a long time member of the CADA Camp staff and Area B Council, CADA Slam Coordinator, and presenter at State Convention and various Area Conferences around the state. I am inspired to work with the Area B Council to develop new ways to connect our schools and advisors and support our members. When not at school, I love watching my two kids play sports, backyard movies, kitchen dance parties to 90s hip hop, and going camping. I can't wait to serve Area B and CADA in the coming year!

**AREA C**

### AREA C COORDINATOR

**Shawna Sousa**

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I have been the Activities Director at Central East High School in Fresno, California for the past 8 year. As a Central East graduate, I love giving back and working for the community that raised me. I attended CADA Camps as a high school student and have now been lucky enough to be part of the Camp Staff for 2 years. I am so excited for this new adventure within the CADA organization. I look forward to being able to support fellow Activities Directors in our area and to help create amazing memories for the students of Area C. Among our students are soon to be Activities Directors that will continue to grow positive school cultures throughout our communities. CADA has always been a place of growth, support and fun for me. I hope to share this with all of Area C throughout the next year.

**AREA D**

### AREA D COORDINATOR

**Christy Hertsch**

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[www.cada1.org/areaD](http://www.cada1.org/areaD)

Hi awesome CADA friends!

My name is Christy Hertsch and I am thrilled to be the new Area D Coordinator, following in the footsteps of some amazing leaders who have been a pivotal part of the CADA organization! I am currently 35,000 feet in the air as I write this, on my way to Washington DC with a group of 22 students and parents, most of whom have never been on a plane before. While in line, one of the girls asked me what it was like to fly and I responded that I thought it was fun... take off is fast, seeing the the puffy clouds and the world from a different perspective is awesome, and being pushed into the back of your seat as you go from hundreds of miles per hour to a slow roll is exhilarating! Her response was, "Yeah, but Ms. Hertsch, you think EVERYTHING is fun!" What a compliment I thought, because isn't that what we as activities directors do? We make school a fun place to be by creating activities and events that students want to be part of and want to be at school for. Of course, there is much more to it than that, but if that is what the students see... me as the fun person, then I must be doing something right!

So yes, that's me... I try to find the fun in everything I do, because life is too short to spend it any other way! I enjoy spending time with my 3 young adult children, my soon-to-be husband, Thane, and friends. Adventures in Mammoth, Northern Wisconsin and on the beach make me happy, and I'm always up for finding new places to visit! That being said, one of my goals for AREA D, although we are challenged by the distance between us, is to get members together in social settings and area specific meet-ups with the purpose of sharing ideas, bouncing challenges off one another, and getting to know one another in a relaxed setting. The pandemic distanced us too much and it's time to put away the laptops and meet face to face. Some of the greatest ideas I have ever learned were from casual conversations at CADA events!

Another goal that I have is to continue to increase the number of schools attending our 3 area conferences. Our numbers have been steadily increasing the post-pandemic year because everyone is ready to learn and have fun! Finally, I'm looking to increase the number of attendees at our Advisor conference. Yes, it can be a drive for some, but we meet in one of the most beautiful places on our central coast... why not add a day make a mini vacay weekend out of it—I know we all could use it, and besides, hanging out with a bunch of like-minded people is always a good time!

Taking on the role of Area Coordinator is going to be a new adventure and I can't wait to have some FUN with AREA D!

# AREA COORDINATOR MESSAGES CONTINUED

## WELCOME NEW AREA COORDINATORS



**AREA F COORDINATOR**  
**Dinah Greene**  
[areaF@cada1.org](mailto:areaF@cada1.org)  
[www.cada1.org/areaF](http://www.cada1.org/areaF)

Hello everyone, I am Dinah Greene and I am excited to be your next Area F Coordinator!!! It is a huge honor and I am humbled to serve the CADA/CASL organization, as I have experienced CADA as a student and now as an advisor. I have been an Activities Director for 11 years and have the experience of opening Orange Vista High School 8 years ago. I come to you having served as an area council member for 10 years and currently Area F Assistant Coordinator, as well as a CADA Camp Staff leader; I have also received awards for Area Service and most recently the Warren

Shull Activities Director of the Year. With that, I am well overdue to serve CADA/CASL and Area F at a higher level. The organization that's more like family has extended many hands to me along this journey and I choose to extend my reach to do the same.

Through CADA interactions I have learned so much about the creation and sustainability of a successful student leadership program. The organization provides many opportunities for advisors and students, so I urge you to not only attend, but also share with others what you know from your perspective. Every year my students and I take advantage of every opportunity to collaborate with other advisors and students through: CADA Convention, CADA Summer Leadership Camps, CASL Convention, and Area F Conferences (Advisor, Middle School and High School). I am continually inspired by others with their creativity, positive energy, and organization of developing better programs for our campuses. Continue to fill your cup and that of your leaders to prevent from professional and personal burnout.

Area F (serving Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties) is a great area to serve and share ideas and resources. I encourage everyone in our area to get connected via social media and even join our council to find more ways to support one another in this fabulous world of student activities. We have seen our world shift tremendously over the last 4 years; so rather you are new to student activities or a classic veteran, there is always something to learn. With so many experienced activities directors as well as fresh perspectives, there is always a teachable moment when interacting with one another. I urge each of us to expand our circles and network, collaborate and continue to perfect our craft for our own sanity and to enhance the campuses we serve.

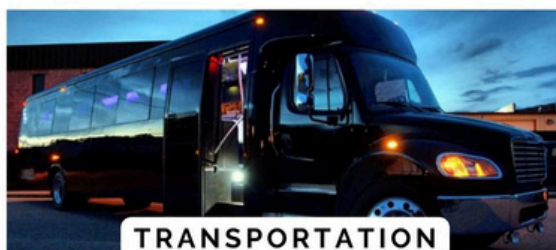
I am overjoyed to assume this new role as Area Coordinator! Don't hesitate to offer comments, questions, or suggestions; I am available to make sure our council continues to serve student leadership advisors and students in our area.

# PROMS + SPECIAL EVENTS 2024

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# TOP TEN FUN THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR ASB CLASS AT THE END OF THE YEAR IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER!



## DENISE VAN DOORN

Area H Lead

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### Continued from front cover

7. Write a real letter to next year's class/officer and save it for next year's class.
6. Write thank you notes to every staff member.
5. Find your most spirited student and present them with a fun award as a way to appreciate them.
4. Have an ASB awards event where you create awards like "Energizer Bunny" keeps going and going, "Super Soaker Sponge Soaks up leadership", "Glasses" has the vision....
3. Teach them to hand stitch up their ASB t-shirts and stuff them with batting into a pillow- to be used in a dorm or bedroom.
2. Print a photo of your whole class and give one to each student (you probably have a group shot) and give them a blank mat/border frame that everyone can sign. Everything is so digital these days - make this tangible!
1. Do a complete makeover of your "backroom/storage" space. Take everything out, clean, sort, label, and put it back in. Take photos (you are welcome.)

**SAVE THE DATES!**

**FEB 26 - MARCH 1, 2025**

**CADASTOCK: COME TOGETHER**

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**SEEKING PRESENTERS**

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**Registration Opens this Fall!**



# NAVIGATING THE HORIZON: CIF AND EMERGING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS IN CALIFORNIA



## BONNIE BAGHERI

CADA Immediate Past President  
San Marcos High School  
bbagheri@cadaboard.org

The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) plays a vital role in organizing and managing high school sports across the state. While its primary focus has traditionally been on athletic competitions, recent developments have highlighted an increasing emphasis on environmental considerations that extend to all aspects of school life, including both athletics and activities. Let's explore the emerging environmental challenges that are poised to significantly impact CIF's operations and high school activities throughout California.

One of the most pressing concerns is the escalating temperatures driven by climate change, which have profound implications for outdoor activities, including sports. Recognizing the risks posed by extreme heat, California has enacted legislation to address heat index concerns, aiming to safeguard the well-being of student-athletes. Assembly Bill 1653 imposes strict guidelines for outdoor activities during high heat conditions. CIF schools are required to comply with these regulations, which include implementing heat acclimatization protocols, ensuring access to hydration stations, and scheduling events during cooler times of the day. The goal of this legislation is to protect students from heat-related illnesses. This will impact Activities when Athletic contests and practices are postponed or canceled and rescheduled. It will be important to work closely with the Athletic Directors. CIF's proactive measures in offering discounted wet bulbs to measure heat index is important. Each school district will need to decide how to purchase these required wet bulbs and since this is mandated by the state law, ASB funds should not be used.

In addition to the challenges posed by heat, CIF member schools must also contend with air quality management, particularly during wildfire seasons. Wildfires release harmful pollutants into the air, posing health risks for everyone, including athletes and students engaged in outdoor activities. To address this issue, California has implemented laws mandating air quality



monitoring and adherence to prescribed protocols. Schools are required to adjust schedules, relocate events, or cancel activities if air quality reaches unhealthy levels, ensuring the protection of students from exposure-related health risks. Again, it will be imperative to work closely with the administration when rescheduling of events happens because of air quality issues.

As California continues to grapple with these environmental challenges, it is clear that the landscape of high school sports and activities is evolving to prioritize the health and safety of students. In response to these challenges, California's latest legislation emphasizes the importance for schools to have comprehensive emergency action plans and accessible AED machines within 3 minutes of activities, further highlighting the commitment to student well-being.

CIF's initiatives extend beyond sports events to encompass all school activities, ensuring that student safety is paramount across all facets of campus life. Through collaboration and compliance with these regulations, California is poised to lead the way in fostering a resilient and sustainable future in high school sports and activities, thereby creating a safe and healthy environment for students.

# LET'S INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS & STAFF

WATCH PREVIEW VIDEOS AT  
[TopYouthSpeakers.com](http://TopYouthSpeakers.com)



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# **THANK YOU FOR HOSTING!**

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS**

**BCASAA Conference**

**Bernardo Heights Middle School**

**Bidwell Junior High School**

**Brawley Union High School**

**Caruthers High School**

**CASL Regional Conference**

**Chaminade Middle School**

**Chavez High School**

**Chino High School**

**Desert Mirage High School**

**Douglass Middle School**

**Edison High School**

**El Monte Union High School**

**Esperanza High School**

**Foothill Ranch Middle School**

**Franklin High School**

**Grossmont Union High School**

**Hanford West High School**

**Health Careers Academy High School**

**Hughes High School**

**Jane Fredrick High School**

**Kraemer Middle School**

**Lee Middle School**

**Liberty High School**

**Lincoln High School**

**Lone Hill Middle School**

**Madison Middle School**

**Merlo High School**

**Orange Vista High School**

**Pacific Law Academy**

**Palmdale Areospace Academy**

**Pioneer Valley High School**

**Raymond Cree Middle School**

**Rio Vista Middle School**

**Ripon High School**

**Riverside Prep Middle School**

**San Marcos High School**

**San Marcos Middle School**

**Shadows Hills Magnet Academy**

**Sierra Middle School**

**Stagg High School**

**Summerville High School**

**Warm Spring Middle School**

**Washington Unifed School District**





# INTRAMURALS END OF THE MONTH FUN!

## LISA CARSON, ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR & STUDENTS

Violet Robertson & Jacob Marshall  
San Dimas High School  
[L.Carson@bonita.k12.ca.us](mailto:L.Carson@bonita.k12.ca.us)



**What is it?** School Wide Rock Paper Scissors Activity  
**When is it?** January 19th, 2024 all-day

How does it work? After watching the announcements, students will receive one beaded necklace from their teacher which indicates that the challenge has started for them. Students will play rock paper scissors with a designated player that has one or more necklaces, whoever wins the rock paper scissors game will get ALL the necklaces the person they played (Ex. if you have 1 necklace, and you play someone with 18 necklaces, you get all of their 18 necklaces). The way to compete in the final game of rock paper scissors by the end of the day, you must have 10 or more necklaces by the 6th period, then 15 minutes before the 6th period ends we will announce on the all-call for competitors to come to Mrs. Carson's room (F2) to battle it out.

Will students want to do this? Why? Students will most definitely want to do this activity because it is short and simple, and everyone knows how to play rock paper scissors, and the best part is, is that they get a snack basket with an SDHS hoodie if they win the whole competition.

What needs to be done:  
Order 10 bulk beaded necklaces from oriental trading (link)  
Make a one saying "School-wide rock paper scissors"

- Sort necklaces for teachers
- Send ASB members to homerooms with necklaces and a script (if their homeroom teacher doesn't watch the announcements)
- Make Video for announcements (WITH TRANSITIONS)
  - [Sample 1](#)
  - [Sample 2](#)

**Violet:** Hey Saints! Today we're having a school-wide rock paper scissor competition, here's how you play.

**Jacob:** After the announcements, your teachers are going to hand out one beaded necklace to each student \*Hand necklaces to 2 people\*.

**Violet:** As soon as you get your necklaces, you can start playing \*2 people getting ready to play rock paper scissors\*.

**Jacob:** \*2 people play rock paper scissors then freeze\* Now, the person who lost has to give all their necklaces to the person that won and if you lost, you are out of the competition.

**Violet:** Your goal is to have 10 or more necklaces by the 7th period when we will call on the all-call for everyone to compete in the final battle of rock paper scissors that will be held in Mrs. Carson's room.

**Jacob:** The remaining people will battle it out until there is one winner left, and that winner will get a cool prize!

**Violet:** We can't wait to see who comes out on top!

**Jacob:** And always remember to play fair!

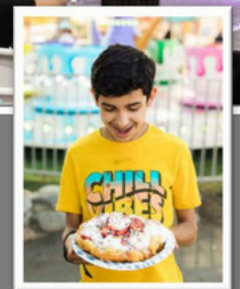
**Both:** Byebye!

LA COUNTY  
**FAIR**

## FREE\* Leadership Conference

Thursday  
May 16th\*\*, 2024

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER  
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\*With the booking of the 2025 Leadership Conference, available only to schools that have not attended in years prior

\*\* Dates and times subject to change

# CADA AWARD WINNERS HALL OF FAME AWARD



The CADA Hall of Fame has been established to honor members of the organization who have distinguished themselves in service to their profession through exemplary service to their students, to their school, and to the CADA organization.



## **RAVEN COIT PENINSULA UNION SCHOOL**

In 2002, Raven Coit attended Link Crew training with Phil Boyte, and was inspired! From a second-year English teacher, she evolved to an aspiring activities director. During her tenure at El Camino High in South San Francisco, Raven learned from master director Derek Padilla, while serving

as a Link Crew, class, and club advisor. She was introduced to CADA at its 2006 state convention, "All That Jazz." Within a few years, Raven was helping culture development at Fortuna High School in Humboldt County. Over the span of 14 years as leadership teacher and activities director, she worked with phenomenal student leaders and colleagues to lead and shape school culture. Through those years, she sought more ways to engage with the CADA community. Raven has earned the Master Activities Advisor Certificate, worked at CADA camp, presented at Area A and state conferences, served on Area A council, convened a Humboldt County leadership teacher group to foster support and collaboration, and taught Master Activities Advisor classes. In 2021, she was honored with the Area A Service Award. Also in 2021, after 20 years of teaching high school, Raven finally graduated, and now serves as principal-superintendent of Peninsula Union School District. Cultivating the culture of gratitude and inclusivity that is her passion, she leads the small, single-school district on the beautiful beach of Samoa, California. She is endlessly inspired by her CADA colleagues, and immensely honored by this Hall of Fame Award.



## **MARGARET NORIAN RETIRED**

Margaret Noroian was a teacher of yearbook, journalism and agriculture, Activities Director, and cheerleader and FFA advisor at North Salinas High School for 41 years. Her connection to the school started as a student and continues to this day. As President and Youth Services Director of the

Santa Lucia Rotary Club, she frequents the school sponsoring students of the month, the Interact club, the Top 100 dinner, the Rotary Youth Exchange program, and two \$1,000 scholarships. One scholarship is in memory of her daughter Nichole who was also a NSHS graduate. More endeavors occupying her time are serving on the Board of the Salinas Valley Fair, being an Ambassador for the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce and volunteering as a server at the Valley Guild Steinbeck House Restaurant. Working on 35 years of CADA service, Margaret continues to work behind the scenes at the three Area D student conference and the Advisor conference. The most important thing in her life is being wife of Chuck for 45 years, mother to Nick and Noel and Nonie to granddaughters Maelynn and Makenna!

## **CADA AWARD WINNER JACK MOORE AWARD**



The Jack Moore Award is a lifetime achievement award, named after our first President, recognizing longstanding efforts on behalf of the organization in working with both student leaders and advisors as well as serving CADA statewide.



## **DON DAGNE RETIRED**

I am so blessed to be a member of CADA for 46 years. Everyone is so friendly, helpful and kind. With each step, many were there to help me, making this journey very special. I was lucky to teach 40 years in the same school district. My goal was to make every student want to come to school. I always met every kid at the doorway with hugs or high fives. I made games out of lessons no matter the subject. If you really loved what you were doing, it showed on your face. CADA helped me be a better teacher and better person. I loved the workshops, the conventions, and working on our council. I hope to stay with CADA for as long as I live. I thank God that I had such a wonderful career.

**SCAN TO WATCH DON'S  
JACK MOORE VIDEO**



# CADA AWARD WINNERS HONORARY LIFETIME AWARD



Once a year, CADA recognizes a person outside of the membership who goes above and beyond in making sure that CADA's programs continue to prosper and succeed in accomplishing its goals.



## AL HOPGOOD SPRINGVALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Al Hopgood has been teaching leadership for a many years up in Kelowna B.C. Canada. He has attended CADA Conferences since 2009 and involved with CADA Camp staff for the last 7 plus years. He completed his Master Of Activity Certification (MMA) with CADA and has hosted Leadership Development Days in Kelowna. He sits on the Board Of Directors for British Columbia Student Leadership Association. In his spare time, he works for the West Kelowna Fire & Rescue Department as a paid on call Captain.



## LARRY LIVERMORE THE MARKER MAN

Thank you for working with our future leaders! I worked with Don Sproul for many years, until Don retired, starting our business with a handshake. Markers were at the first CADA convention in 1964 in Bakersfield, We look forward every year to meeting

and working with ASB teachers from California and many other states. Our RAINBOW of colors brightens up the campuses across the nation. Blessings to all our teacher friends and vendors.



## JOHN VAN KEEKAN CONFETTI FX PLANET

Confetti brings the best spirit and excitement to school events from Kindergarten to College!



## GREG HROCH 5-STAR STUDENTS

Greg Hroch started teaching in 1991. He taught Spanish for 10 years and student leadership for four years. He now works for 5-Star students traveling the country speaking about the benefits of student involvement and

consulting with students on Leadership strategy. Greg also runs trips for student leaders through his Extreme Leadership Program. When Greg is not speaking or traveling, he is coaching baseball and spending time with his wonderful wife Kathy and his two boys Rocky and Chance.



## JOE SOVA COMMUNITY DISCOUNT CARD

Community Discount Card has been a CADA Member and Vendor for 30 years. We have enjoyed the relationships we have built over the years with the School's and Programs and Activity Director's we have supported!! This ongoing journey is not over and look to the future in

supporting all your Fundraising efforts for many years to come!! This has been an enjoyable experience working with the amazing Activity Directors over the years!! Their exuberance and positive energy makes for a fantastic experience every year!! Wishing all only the best! Sincerely, Joe Sova, Community Discount Card!!

## CADA AWARD WINNER EARL REUM AWARD



## DON SKAGGS GREAT OAK HIGH SCHOOL

Don Skaggs has been the Activities Director at Great Oak High School for the past twenty years. He has been blessed with an incredibly supportive wife and three children all who love Great Oak as much as he does. In the

past twenty years he has been assisted by amazing staff members. This award is certainly a team effort with five supportive teachers who assist in teaching the nine sections of leadership at GOHS.

Don is supported by his wife Debbie of almost thirty three years and his three adult children. His wife can be found at the CADA bookstore for the past 25 or so years. He loves GOHS and spends most of his free time traveling with his wife or hanging out at the school watching high school sports. He is incredibly grateful for Erin Andrade, Alicia Brennan, Kristy Baron and Herschel Ramirez and grateful for an amazing admin team that will make things happen if it is good for students. He loves his job and is always willing to share Great Oak culture with schools across the United States.



# CADA AWARD WINNERS WARREN SHULL AWARD



The Warren Shull Award is given by the National Student Council (NatStuCo) recognizing outstanding contributions in working with student leaders. CADA chooses a designee each year to represent the state of California and Region 7 with the NatStuCo organization.



## VALERIE VERA-MINEER CANYON HILLS JR. HIGH SCHOOL

Valerie Vera-Mineer has served her entire career as a World History teacher for 32 years at Canyon Hills Jr. High School. At Canyon Hills, she was the Renaissance Advisor for 21 years. Valerie has served on the CADA Area E Council as well as the CARE (California Association of Renaissance Educators) Board. She has presented at CADA Area E student conferences, CADA state conferences, LASK conferences, CARE conferences, World's Greatest School's conferences and Jostens National Renaissance Conferences. She was honored to receive the Hall of Fame recognition at the state and national level for Renaissance in 2012. Valerie was honored to receive the CADA Area E Service Award in 2019 and honored to receive the Region 10 Educator of the Year from the California League of Middle Schools in 2020. Valerie would like to express her gratitude to the CADA organization, Canyon Hills Junior High School, as well as her family and friends who have been a constant support.



## DINAH GREENE ORANGE VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

Dinah Greene is the Activities Director at Orange Vista High School in Perris, CA. Dinah experienced CADA as a student in 2000 and now loves being involved as the Area F Coordinator and the Summer Leadership Camp Staff. Receiving the Warren Shull

Award is a great honor as Dinah pours into finding new ways for students to discover their passion and live out their purpose. Dinah has previously received the Area F Service Award and she works towards providing solid relationships with other advisors and directors to promote solid programs on their campuses. Her goal is to create intentional ways for others to have a positive impact on the campus they serve. She attributes her success to the unwavering support from her family and all of the many educators she has encountered along the way.



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# CADA AWARD WINNERS

## BOB BURTON SPIRIT AWARD WINNERS



The Bob Burton Spirit Award is presented to a person who makes SPIRIT WORK, who makes a positive difference, who emphasizes inclusion with all students and members. The nominee must be a CADA member, individual, or vendor. The award is given through the area in which the nominee maintains business or membership. The nominee cannot be a current council member and will be given to one person, not to teams, partners or groups.



### AREA A: JONATHAN MERCHANT CENTRAL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Jonathon Merchant has been the Activities Director for Central Valley High School for the past seven years. Before taking this position he served CVHS as a basketball coach, club advisor, history teacher and much more. For over a decade he has exemplified what it means to be a

“team player” and given everything to CVHS. As Activities Director, Jonathon has focused on creating meaningful events that include all students and promote school spirit/pride. Under Jonathon’s guidance, the leadership program has created brand new events such as Kindness Day, Multicultural Week, Love CV Day, New Students Luncheons, Mental Health Fair, Saturday with Santa (a K-6 Special Ed Event), and more. All of these events have the goal to help all students feel welcomed, included, and seen at Central Valley High School.

In class, Jonathon’s students are constantly challenged to think about others, reach those less seen, share the spotlight, and are reminded daily “kindness costs nothing.” While activities and events have flourished, Jonathon’s main focus has always been the 89 young leaders he gets to pour into everyday. He believes the more he can empower his students and grow them as leaders, the better off the entire campus will be. Central Valley High School is lucky to have Jonathon as a key leader of student and staff culture; this award is well deserved!



### AREA B: APRIL GOODMAN-ORCUTT MILLER MIDDLE SCHOOL

April Goodman-Orcutt is the Activities Director and leadership teacher at Miller Middle School. April has been involved in CADA for over 13 years. She is very welcoming to new CADA members and passionate about

making a difference on her campus. She has presented at CADA multiple times and worked to help bolster other middle school programs. April prioritizes helping all students on campus to feel included. One example is that she plans simple spirit weeks that can involve everyone, like Rainbow Week, where each day highlights a different color. Area B is so proud of April for her kindness, inclusion, and spirit!



### AREA C: ALANA WOODIN ORANGE COVE HIGH SCHOOL

Alana is an enthusiastic leader who serves with her whole heart. She genuinely believes she has the best students in the world and works hard to teach them what it means to “learn a life of love” on their school campus. She has been attending and learning through the CADA network for the past ten years through state

conferences, Area C advisor meetings, area advisor conferences, and summer leadership camps. She is beyond grateful for the community that she has found at CADA and the impact it has had on her own school culture.



### AREA D: KERRY SHERER ATASCADERO HIGH SCHOOL

Kerry Sherer has been teaching for 28 years. She spent the first 24 teaching in elementary school, primarily in 4th grade. She always said Activities Director at the high school is one of the only jobs that could get her to leave her elementary family. In late 2019 the

opportunity came and she jumped. The last four years have been spent rebuilding the leadership program at Atascadero High School. She attributes a CADA session with Scott Backovich, that she attended just 8 weeks into her time as Activities Director, with her clear vision. The grounding focus of AHS Leadership is to “give more than we ask.” Kerry runs two leadership programs that work in tandem, ASB and PAWS (Peers Actively Working for Students). Together the programs seek opportunities to help students connect, experience and build positive memories of their time at AHS. She pushes the students to look at events through the lens of all student groups to ensure that everyone is represented, safe and included. This model has helped change the culture on campus to one where students and staff are proud to say “We are AHS!” Kerry is happy to tell anyone she has the best job in the world and plans to stay put until she retires.



### AREA E: CHRIS REEDER LOS ALTOS HIGH SCHOOL

Chris Reeder is the Activities Director at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, CA. He has served as the ASB advisor for the past 8 years as well as the Renaissance Leadership Teacher since 2010. Prior to teaching leadership, Chris taught US History and

Government as well as serving as the Social Science Department Chair. As Activities Director, Chris works tirelessly to create an inclusive, supportive environment for students and Staffuly alike. He stresses seven key values to his leadership students...Grit, Selflessness, Vision, Passion, Initiative, Kindness, and Responsibility. Countless events throughout the year such as student tailgates, class competition rallies, poetry nights, lawn-chair lunches, and more, are designed to create a spirited campus for the entire Conqueror Family. In addition, Chris was recently inducted into Josten's Renaissance National Hall of Fame for the tremendous work his Renaissance crew has done over the years with recognitions, rewards, and celebrations. He is supported endlessly by his amazing Principal, Jeff Hess as well as his loving and patient wife Jamie and his daughters Samantha and Grace.



**AREA F: JEN DELEON  
CHAPARRAL HIGH SCHOOL**

After observing, listening and building relationships during her first year as Chaparral High School's Activities Director in 2022-2023, Jen DeLeon was excited to go out on a limb this year - try new ideas, amp up the spirit and positively impact the culture of CHS to its Puma Pride potential. She collaborated with her administrative

team and athletics department to rebrand the student section and focused on raising excitement and building a desire to participate. It worked. DeLeon established a student section known as the "Puma Pit," making varsity games the place to be on Friday nights. Incentives were given, new ideas and hype were advertised and students were encouraged to celebrate their Puma Pride together. She took a student section that started at the bottom, unranked, and transformed it to be voted the #1 Student Section in the Nation for the 2023 Football Season this year by the Student Section Report. DeLeon appreciates and attributes much of her success in building school spirit at CHS to her hard-working students, a supportive admin team and the relationships built through CADA and the connections made throughout the years. Jen DeLeon's passion for school spirit and inclusion of all students directly supports the values upheld by CADA's Bob Burton Spirit Award.



**AREA H: JAMIE GIBO  
VETERANS TRIBUTE CTA**

Jamie Gibo has taught for 22 years in the Clark County School District, where she shined at both Shadow Ridge High School and Veterans Tribute Career and Technical Academy. Currently, she is the Community Partnership Coordinator and Student Council Advisor at Veterans Tribute. During her

11 years as a student council advisor, students at our school and several others. Providing a high school experience for these students that they may not otherwise be able to attend. Hosting a school-wide carnival helped other clubs and activities fundraise for their groups. Jamie encourages her students to lead with kindness and to ensure our events, activities, and dress-up days remain inclusive for all students and staff. She also challenges them to try new things and think outside the box. She is a role model and guide for her leadership students and someone other clubs and advisors can rely on for ideas and support. As a former leadership student, activities and spirit are in her blood, and she enjoys shining the spotlight on others.



**AREA G: MICHELLE RYAN  
VISTA INNOVATION & DESIGN**

Michelle Ryan is in her 10th Year as the ASB Director of VIDA, a magnet middle school located in Vista, California. In her time leading the student body at VIDA, Michelle has become an expert at co-designing alongside the students in building their ownership and agency for school culture and belonging. Michelle lives by the adage that, "there is no rigor without joy," and tirelessly works to ensure that a strong school culture is not just an "aspect" of school, but is truly the underlying through-line of a rigorous learning environment. The activities, support, and work by Michelle ensures our school remains at the forefront of innovation, love, and care for all in our community.

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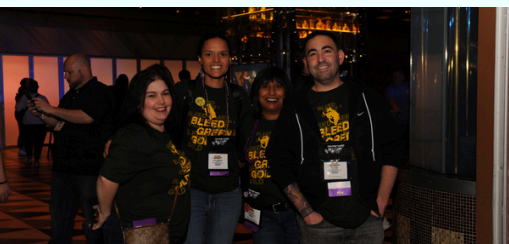
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# CADA AWARD WINNERS AREA SERVICE AWARD WINNERS



The Area Service Award is presented each year for overall contributions to CADA. These recipients should have been active on the Area council, summer camp program, as a state officer, as a presenter at area conferences or state conventions.



## AREA A: CAMERON CHITWOOD TRACY HIGH SCHOOL

Cameron Chitwood has been an educator at Tracy High School since 2017, primarily teaching GOV/ECON as well as Student Government. Over the past four years, he has assumed the role of Activities Director, demonstrating exceptional leadership during the unprecedented times of the

pandemic and continues to challenge his student to be the best possible versions of themselves each day. Cameron's primary objective has been to cultivate a strong sense of belonging within his students and the school community. His commitment to fostering a positive and inclusive environment is emphasized through his and his student's commitment to servant leadership, as he sets high expectations for his students while maintaining a vibrant student activity culture.

Cameron's involvement with CADA Programs extends beyond his role at Tracy High School. He has served on the Area A Council, completed the M.A.A. Program in 2023, served on CADA Summer Camp Staff, and continues the tradition of student leader development, he personally experienced under the mentorship of CADA legend Steve Southard, by bringing his own students each Summer to Santa Barbara! Cameron actively shares his insights and experiences with new Activities Directors, presenting at conventions and advisor conferences. He also takes every opportunity he can get to guide student leaders at area conferences, equipping them with valuable tools to implement in their respective schools.

Cameron attributes much of his success to his CADA family, Area A council family, and mentors who have played a crucial role in his first few years as an Activities Director. He values these relationships as essential components of his professional growth and continued development.



## AREA B: MARTINE KELSCH JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Martine has been teaching for 15 years, starting her journey in New York City and has been the Director of Student Activities at Jefferson High School for 11 years, thanks to her mentor Michael Simon, She has been attending CADA programs and

conferences since 2012 where she's earned her MAA and stepped up to be part of Area B council since 2020!

Bringing the Area technology up to date, she single-handedly created, promoted, and currently manages the Area B Instagram and LinkedIn accounts, while also helping to design logos or anything creative such as social media contests for students at the Area B conferences. She is super creative, spirited, and always ready to laugh and have fun!! Her energy is contagious and last year also started a "newbie" group chat and social media challenge to help mentor and support them at their 1st adviser conference!! Congratulations Coach Tini!!



## AREA C: BRYAN SPEED MATILDA TORRES HIGH SCHOOL

Speed has been an Activities Director for the past 8 years. His career has taken him all over the state from LA to the Bay, and now to the Central Valley. He has had the honor of serving on the Area E, B, and C councils helping to plan leadership development opportunities for the students and

advisors of throughout the state. He is a member of the CADA Camps Staff, also serves as the Digital Media Coordinator for the CADA State Board. Speed's ASB Leadership roots run deep, he was involved in ASB all 4-years of high school, and his time as a student leader inspired him to pursue a career in education with the goal of becoming an Activities Director. He currently serves as the Activities Director and Leadership Teacher at Matilda Torres High School in Madera, CA. He had the opportunity to attend CADA Camp, CASL, and many area conferences as a student, and feels blessed to have the opportunity to give back as an advisor.



## AREA D: MARSHA CORDES OXNARD HIGH SCHOOL

Marsha Cordes is in her 4th year as the ASB Advisor of her Alma Mater Oxnard High School. She is a Yellow Jacket through and through and was actually the ASB President in 2004. She is passionate and proud to be a

Yellow Jacket. This is one reason why she suggested hosting the Area D South Conference at OHS! With the help of her assistant principal, Ashley Maeshiro and Area D Council, she was able to successfully host the Area conference at Oxnard High School. Ms. Cordes is looking into hosting a district wide LDD to further the leadership abilities of the student leaders in the Oxnard Union High School District.

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**AREA E: CELIA COLLINS  
LYLE S. BRIGGS K-8 SCHOOL**

Celia Collins is a 32-year seasoned educator, 15 of those years she enjoyed being the ASB Advisor! This year, Celia stepped away from her Leadership/ASB Advisor role and is mentoring the new advisor on campus. She continues to teach English and has taken on the challenge of creating a Drama Class!! Celia is a past Bob

Burton Award Winner & takes pride in being an Area E Council Member. She has presented at numerous Area E Student and State Conferences, and regularly volunteers to help with Registration Booth set up and take down, working the Registration table, being on the Ask Me team, helping with the Area meetings, and other numerous tasks! She credits the CADA family for all the knowledge she gained over the years and is especially grateful for the noteworthy times working behind the scenes alongside the Area E Council members!



**AREA G: ALEXIS MELROSE  
MIRA MESA HIGH SCHOOL**

Alexis first learned about the value of building community as an AVID teacher at several SDUSD schools, including Mira Mesa High School. Alexis became a class advisor for the class of 2022 before becoming the ASB Advisor for the last three years. Her associate principal, Brittani Reyes, encouraged her to join CADA and has

played a significant role in helping Alexis to grow the ASB program at Mira Mesa from one class of twenty-two students to two classes with a combined enrollment of fifty-five students. Alexis is grateful to her husband, Brian, for his unwavering support, and to her co-advisor, Michael Harris, for his guidance and expertise during her first year as ASB advisor. Since joining the Area G council, Alexis has presented at both the advisors and the middle school conferences. Alexis is excited to continue learning from the knowledgeable leaders in Area G council and to help Area G continue to flourish.



**AREA F: BECCA COOK  
HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL**

Becca Cook is a member of the Area F Council and works at Hillcrest High School in Riverside. She has been a teacher for 19 years and open Hillcrest in 2012. She started the ASB and Activities program in 2013 with only Freshmen and Sophomores. She

has been a CADA member for 12 years and an Area F Council member for 4 years. Becca has presented at the high school, middle school, advisor conferences as well as the CADA State Convention.

Becca is a passionate educator dedicated to fostering student empowerment and creating a positive environment for all. She emphasizes involving students in decision-making and fostering a sense of community, creating a school environment where students feel supported and motivated to succeed. Becca is honored to receive this award and grateful to all the Area F Council members for their wisdom, collaboration, innovation, and friendship! Area F brings the FUN!



**HARRY BETTENCOURT  
AWARD WINNERS**

The Harry Bettencourt Character Award recipients have distinguished themselves by their exemplary character and service at the local, state, and national levels. This award recognizes an individual of exceptional character and kindness who has contributed significantly to the leadership development of students, teachers, and/or administrators.



**AREA A: PATTY JUDGE  
RETIRED/ALL RISE FOUNDATION**

Besides traveling to baseball park to baseball park, my life since retirement has been full of exciting times. I love my gardening and working with youth in any way I can.

In addition, check out the ALL RISE foundation which is so very important to our family at this time.

Patty Judge Post Retirement Journey

In 2013, the Judge family continued to focus on the CADA mantra by focusing on education and leadership development. Our dreams were the foundation of the Aaron Judge ALL RISE Foundation which was founded in 2018 and has become a viable non-profit business focused on youth. Our programs have been established to develop responsible citizens and to inspire them to reach unlimited possibilities. Our comprehensive components are:  
Our three regions are San Joaquin County (Aaron's hometown), Fresno County (Aaron's college home, and NYC (Aaron's new hometown).

Aspiring Leaders Programs/Leadership programs: We send delegations of students to Area A and C leadership conferences; the Annual Linden HS Scholarship; Baseball Camp (working on 5th); [www.aaronjudgeALLRISEfoundation.org](http://www.aaronjudgeALLRISEfoundation.org); Summer reading program established last summer; #Just5minutes campaign.

Our Mini-Grant program is for community-based organizations, public and private agencies, and faith-based organizations doing work in our three regions. The Mini-Grants awards \$2,500.00 to programs providing services that support our mission. #Just5minutes campaign; #ALLRISE2help campaign; Annual Gala (working on 5th); Leadership Master Classes; [aaronjudgeALLRISEfoundation.org](http://aaronjudgeALLRISEfoundation.org).







### AREA B: MIKE WHITE MONTA VISTA HIGH SCHOOL

Mike has had a long career as an educator, totaling 33 years. In his role as an Activities Assistant Principal, he has served at James Logan, Lynbrook, and Monta Vista High Schools. His history of involvement with CADA spans 26 years. Throughout his tenure with CADA, he has presented at

various student conferences and the CADA State Convention. Additionally, he is a CADA Past President (CADAtoons!), Past CASL Board member, and Past Area B Coordinator. He remains actively involved in the organization, currently serving on the Area B Council.

Mike has been recognized with the Area B Service Award and the CADA Hall of Fame awards. He had the privilege of working with Harry Bettencourt and Joanne Laird during the NASC 2000 convention. He is honored to have known and worked with Harry and to be recognized with his namesake award. He celebrated with an ice cream in Harry's honor.



### AREA C: MARK DUTRA RETIRED

Being selected for the Harry Bettencourt Character Award for Area C, has been a true life changer for me! As a former Activity and Athletic Director, then moving up to administrator overseeing activities and then as Principal, I use to talk to

Harry often at our state board meetings during my 8 years as the Area C Coordinator. Our conversations ranged from our years of service to our students, staff, parents and community, and of our Portuguese heritage! Many great stories shared between us over the years, so to be honored as the recipient of the award in his name, hopefully you can see why this award truly touches my heart in ways that cannot be shared in words, but will be attempted to be shared to others through my display of positive character befitting to Harry Bettencourt!



### AREA D: PHALBA THOMAS RETIRED

Phalba retired from Conejo Unified School District in 1997. She served as Assistant Principal in charge of activities at the following schools: Westlake High School, Newbury Park High School, Redwood Middle School and Colina Middle School.

Phalba had a "hands-on" approach to the student activities at each school where she worked. She was always willing to help and encourage both advisors and students. Whether you were a veteran advisor or a brand new advisor you could count on her support.

Phalba was instrumental in starting the Middle School Conference in Area D and was in charge of it for 14 years. Although she has turned the organizing of this conference over to some of the "younger generation," she still attends and helps each year.

Phalba was one of the administrators who helped start and implement the Renaissance Program in her district. Recognizing and rewarding students for doing well academically helped with student performance.

After Phalba retired she found herself filling in as a temporary Administrator at some school almost every year. She served in

positions not only in Conejo Unified, but several neighboring districts. Being back on a campus and working with students kept her involved with what she loved doing. Even though some of the challenges changed over the years, she found a solution by always asking, "What is best for the students?"

Phalba has been involved with CADA for 36 years. She is extremely honored to receive the Harry Bettencourt Award and truly grateful to have know him.

### AREA E: JANET ROBERTS RETIRED

Janet Roberts was involved in student activities for 38 years at Diamond Bar High School and Chino Hills High School before retiring in 2015. She has stayed active presenting leadership lessons at CADA Area Conferences, in Canada, Texas and New York. She has loved being a member of the CADA



Camp Staff for over 30 years. She is a Past CADA President and Past Area E Coordinator and loves her CADA Area E family serving on the Area E Council. Janet was inducted into the CADA Hall of Fame, she was a Regional Earl Reum Award Winner, Council Service Award Winner and 2022 Jack Moore Award Winner.

### AREA F: KEVIN FAIRMAN EDISON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Fairman brings over 25 years of dedicated experience in education, serving as an activities director and administrator. Currently serving as an Assistant Principal at Edison High School, Mr. Fairman's career spans various roles, including Assistant Principal of Activities at Marina High School, and teacher at Ocean View



High School, where he excelled as an Activities Director. A longstanding member of CADA for 25 years, Mr. Fairman's contributions extend to his tenure as a Council Member and Area Coordinator for Area F, as well as his presidency of the CADA Board in 2017, during which he spearheaded the successful JamaiCADA – One Love Convention in San Diego. Committed to the belief that every student matters, Mr. Fairman emphasizes the importance of preparing students for life beyond high school with compassion and support, encapsulating this philosophy in the principle of "One Love." He extends his heartfelt gratitude to his wife, Brooke, and daughter, Marley, for their unwavering love and support. Additionally, Mr. Fairman is deeply honored to have received the prestigious award, cherishing the connection to the remarkable Harry and the profound impact he made.

### AREA G: LAURETTA ELDRIDGE SDSCPA

Lauretta has been a teacher for almost 33 years and an Activity Director for 30. She has taught and served as AD at Middle School, High School, Charter School and Continuation School levels. She has worked and presented at various state conferences, camps, and conventions, including the CADA summer leadership camps. She has



hosted and directed several local and state leadership conferences including the 2016 EPIC CADA Conference. She has presented at all California Area Conferences; A-G. She has also presented at colleges, and NA4SA, NASC and NAWD. Her goal is to meet, greet and get to know every member of CADA. When you see her, be sure to say hello and introduce yourself!! When you think of CADA, you think of Lauretta!!

# CADA AWARD WINNER LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE



The Legislator of the Year Award is presented to a California State Legislator who is committed to maintaining and improving the lives of students and has a record of positive support of schools and student activities.



## VINCE HOBBS RIPON SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Written by Jill Mortensen (Activities Director) & Alizeh Ali (Student Board Member) from Ripon High School  
Jill Mortensen - The California Association of Directors of Activities, established in 1957, is the largest statewide support network for Activities Directors in the nation. Its mission is to promote and support leadership development through student activities. I have been a part of this organization for the past 18 years, spending the last three years as the Print Media Coordinator on the state board and now taking over as the Area Coordinator for our region, spanning from Turlock to the Oregon border. As a board member, I had the opportunity to nominate an individual for an award called the Legislator of the Year. The Legislator of the Year Award is presented to a California State Legislator who is committed to

maintaining and improving the lives of students and has a record of positive support of schools and student activities. It was natural when reading the description and comprehending the purpose of this award, Mr. Vince Hobbs was the perfect candidate. At our recent CADA Convention, held in March, Mr. Hobbs was named Legislator of the Year at the state level. To further understand why Mr. Hobbs is genuinely deserving of this award, ASB Executive Board Member Alizeh Ali, will share examples of the many contributions Mr. Hobbs has given to our Leadership program, Ripon High and our community.

Alizeh Ali - Earlier this year, when I was applying for college, one of my prompts asked me to write a note to someone I needed to thank. My first instinct was to write about Mr. Hobbs. From sitting next to him at every board meeting to our conversations about life, I am thankful for every moment I have had with him. Coming into such a professional setting was very nerve-wracking. However, Mr. Hobbs pulled my chair out for me, invited me to go and sit, and even took the time to explain all the large concepts to me. I cannot thank him enough for the kindness he has shown me. Mr. Hobbs takes it upon himself to mentor every single student board member. This action alone should result in the highest recognition. Mr. Hobbs has also impacted every student in the Ripon Unified School District. He vowed to keep every student safe by implementing safety training at all the schools in Ripon. He volunteered his own time to build the stadium at Ripon High. He has even visited our Leadership class and has taught us how to craft the perfect cover letter and resume. As we apply to jobs and college, we use all the resources Mr. Hobbs has shared with us. Thanks to him, we are currently in the middle of our tenth annual mock interview with a professional in the field we plan on pursuing. While Mr. Hobbs may seem intimidating when you first meet him, he is actually the sweetest person. When some of my peers and I were working on publishing our first mental health journal, we came across many roadblocks. The first person we called was Mr. Hobbs. Thanks to him, we were able to publish an outlet for teenagers all around the world.

These projects were only possible because of Mr. Hobbs. A person with such selflessness and a desire to help others deserves much more than anything this world has to offer. I cannot thank Mr. Hobbs enough for everything he has done for me alone. I am so grateful to be able to call him my mentor. He is someone I will never forget. Mr. Hobbs, thank you for lifting up every single student. Your legacy in this town inspires us all.

## MINDFUL MOMENT WITH MORTY BREATHING LIFE INTO OUR INTENTIONS

### JILL MORTENSEN

CADA Print Media Coordinator  
Ripon High School, Ripon CA  
[jmortensen@cadaboard.org](mailto:jmortensen@cadaboard.org)



Breathing life into our intentions creates a commitment to those around us, but more importantly to ourselves. Developing our intentions, speaking our truth, and believing in our goal allows us to be mindful, aware, and happy. That is a lot to process especially when we face toxic situations that can alter our attitude and mood.

Intentions are the mantras/statements that one makes to themselves. "I intend to be on time for work today." "I intend to lead my life with love and kindness in my heart." An intention can be about the next hour, the day ahead, or a monthly goal. It could relate to interactions with family, going to the gym each day, or growing in your spiritual practice. Most importantly, these intentions are yours to own, to live by, and to be proud of, as you practice them.

As your semester comes to a close and you evaluate the pros & cons of the year, and as you look forward toward your summer and fall school year, begin to reflect on your own intentions. Write them down, speak them every day, and allow them to become a part of you. Perhaps some will be short term and some could be long-term. The beauty of this practice is that it is about you and the life you choose to live.



# OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

PROGRAM ★ AWARD 2023  
2024-

\*FINALIST\*

Arroyo Grande High School  
Bear Valley Middle School  
Bellflower Middle/High School  
Canyon Springs High School  
Chino Hills High School  
Concord High School  
Dinuba High School  
Don Antonio Lugo High School  
Douglass Middle School  
El Diamante High School  
Emerson/DaVinci Junior High School  
Excelsior Middle School  
Grace M. Davis High School  
Great Oak High School  
Grossmont High School  
Hanford West High School  
Hillcrest High School  
Irvington High School  
John A. Rowland High School  
Lincoln High School  
Madera High School  
Matilda Torres High School  
Modesto High School  
Mt. Carmel High School  
Murrieta Mesa High School  
Murrieta Valley High School

Nipomo High School  
Orange Vista High School  
Oxnard High School  
Patriot High School  
Pioneer Valley High School  
Quartz Hill High School  
Ripon High School  
Roosevelt High School  
Roy Cloud School  
Rubidoux High School  
Sage Creek High School  
San Dimas High School  
San Marcos High School  
Santa Fe High School  
Santa Maria High School  
Sierra Middle School  
Summerville High School  
Temescal Canyon High School  
Travis Ranch Middle School  
Tuffree Middle School  
Vista del Lago High School  
Vista Murrieta High School  
West Ranch High School  
Westmont High School  
Whitney High School  
William J Pete Knight High School  
Winston Churchill Middle School



# CASL

California Association of Student Leaders

**2025 State Conference**  
Santa Clara, California  
MS: 4/10 - 4/12  
HS: 4/12 - 4/14

**2026 State Conference**  
Ontario, California  
MS: 4/16 - 4/18  
HS: 4/18 - 4/20



## Who Do We Represent Lesson:

### Directions:

Each student is given 5 Post-it cards and is asked to write each group they feel they belong to. These can be a club, sport, or social group.

Next, have students place the sticky notes on the wall. Similar or same groups should be posted together.

When all the stickies are posted and organized, have the students look at the wall and think about the following questions:

- What groups on campus do we represent well?
- What groups on campus do we have little representation of?
- What groups on campus do we have no representation of?
- What can we do to better represent the groups that are missing from the wall?



## BRINGING SPEAKERS TO YOUR PUBLIC SCHOOL: NAVIGATING ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

### BONNIE BAGHERI

CADA Immediate Past President  
San Marcos High School  
bbagheri@cadaboard.org



Introducing guest speakers to public schools can help students learn new things and get inspired. These speakers can talk about all kinds of topics, making school more interesting. For example, they might talk about their jobs or share stories about their lives. This can help students think about what they want to do in the future and what they're interested in. Guest speakers also come from different backgrounds, so they bring different and diverse perspectives to the table. This can help students see things from new angles and think more broadly. The speakers can present and unite the student body on a theme that can be referred to throughout the school year.

But there are challenges too. Bringing in guest speakers can cost a lot of money. Schools have to pay for things like the speaker's fee, travel expenses, and where they'll stay. This can take away money from other important things at school. Plus, it can be tricky to organize everything. Sometimes, it's hard to find a good time for the speaker to come, especially if they have to travel far. Schools also have to make sure the speaker's message fits with what they teach and believe in. This means they have to do a lot of planning and checking beforehand.

To make things easier, schools can team up with other schools nearby to share the costs. This way, they can bring in



speakers to tour a different school each day or even share days. Travel costs are cut, hotel deals can be struck and even the speaker fees can be negotiated. It's also important to pick topics that students care about and relate to what they're learning. Another idea is having the speaker speak to the entire school one day and then, have smaller sessions with the speaker on the next day. This way, students can ask questions and get involved in unique ways with the message. Usually, speaker costs go down significantly when they can schedule multiple days out. And sometimes, it's a good idea to have the speaker stick around for a bit longer during lunch or after school. Speakers could work with teachers or parents after school to make sure their message sticks. Creativity in speaker's schedule is only an ask away.

In the end, bringing in guest speakers can be a great thing for public schools and the cost of a speaker could end up being less than \$1.00 a day per person if you use the tips in the article to plan out the event. Even though it can be hard to plan and cost money, the benefits are worth it. Students learn new things, hear different perspectives, and maybe find some inspiration for their futures. So, with careful planning and teamwork, schools can make sure that bringing in guest speakers is a success for everyone involved.

# CADA Leadership Camps

## July 2024 | UC Santa Barbara

Registration opens February 1  
[cada1.org/leadershipcamps](http://cada1.org/leadershipcamps)

- July 7-10
  - July 12-15
  - July 17-20
  - July 22-25
- experiential learning through council projects
  - keynote speakers
  - networking
  - leadership training

Camp Scholarship Opportunity  
Visit [cada1.org/scholarships](http://cada1.org/scholarships)  
Due Date: April 30



## BATTER UP! TAKE A SWING THIS SUMMER WITH CADA LEADERSHIP CAMPS

### JEFF CULVER

CADA Camp Coordinator  
[jculver@cadaboard.org](mailto:jculver@cadaboard.org)

I attended my first CADA Leadership Camp in the summer of 1992. I had just been elected ASB Vice President heading into my junior year. And 32 years later, I don't remember a lot of specifics about my time at camp, but I do remember that overwhelming feeling of excitement I had for the year ahead. A feeling that my leadership team was about to head back to school and implement some incredible events to bring our school community together.

Like every ballplayer stepping up to the plate, ready to take a swing, we didn't know if our swings would result in a strike, a foul ball, a single, double, triple, or a home run. And let's face it, throughout an average year, we likely experience a wide array of results with our student activities programs...and that's ok! This summer, we will use the theme of baseball as a backdrop to lead our curriculum and get your student leaders ready to take their swings, hoping for home runs, but recognizing that sometimes a single equals success, and if they strike out, they will persevere and keep moving forward! Since 1984, the CADA Camp program has been based on the idea of bringing your key student leaders to be trained over 4 days, with the opportunity to network with students from around the state, share ideas, and collaborate on a council project -- one that you might implement on your own campus during

the school year, hear words of wisdom from top youth motivational speakers, and build a foundation & like-minded goals to take back to the rest of your student leadership team to prepare for the new school year.

We will be enjoying the amenities on the campus of UC Santa Barbara with four camps this summer, which are all open to grades 7-12. Choose from July 7-10, 12-15, or 22-25. (As of press time, the July 17-20 session is sold out.) Register early to reserve your school's spots during your preferred camp date. Student names are not needed until May 17. This summer, we are limiting school delegations to no more than 20 students to try and accommodate as many schools as possible.

CADA/CASL Leadership Camps are staffed by a passionate group of CADA members who return summer after summer because they love working with your students and connecting with other advisors from around the state. We look forward to seeing you this July in Santa Barbara as we step up to the plate and get ready to swing, preparing your student leaders for a successful '24-'25 school year! For more information, online-only registration, and to check date availability, visit [cada1.org/leadershipcamps](http://cada1.org/leadershipcamps).

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# THE ATHLETIC PERSPECTIVE

## ROD WRIGHT & ANN PENDLETON

Athletics Director at Ripon High School  
Science Teacher - The SuperFan Gurus

My experience as an athletic director at CADA was a little overwhelming, being it was my first time at the event. The CADA State Convention is much larger than the California State Athletic Directors Association conferences I attend, and the level of breakout sessions was quite impressive. Networking is very different because it is outside the usual group I associate with.

The variety of vendors was also quite different. I am used to seeing equipment vendors, stadium vendors, painters, and programs to improve all aspects of an athlete and athletic programs.

CADA is much louder and crazier than AD events (maybe because they have more people in attendance).

Presenting at the event was fun. The Ripon High SuperFans presented what is done on our campus and how we are able to get our students to attend more athletic events using social media and other methods. We shared how we've had to try new things and take risks to engage our students and our community regarding all aspects of our school. It was really exciting to connect with those attending our workshops, share what we do, and discuss how we have gone about making positive changes.

So much goes into the activities side of the campus, and it's clear that the lines of communication always need to be open between activities directors and athletic directors. From scheduling activities to having common goals, these campus



leaders need to do all they can to make sure their schools are running smoothly. The CADA State Convention had numerous opportunities to hear about how these two programs can come together to make our campuses a better, more inclusive place. We are fortunate to have the activities director and athletic director housed in the same room on our campus. The lines of communication have improved greatly and we continue to move forward connecting these two entities.

Overall, attending the CADA State Convention was an amazing experience and worthwhile. It was an incredible opportunity to connect, grow, and share.



## FOUR YEARS OF DEDICATION: THE LEGACY LEADER

**PAYTON MILLER-KAY**  
Ripon High School Class of 2024



Being given the opportunity to participate in a high school leadership program for four years is a privilege that extends beyond the classroom, signifying not only a commitment to personal growth but also an invitation to leave a lasting legacy within the school community. To be a Legacy Leader in a high school leadership program is to embrace a tradition of community, service, and pride for your school. It means upholding the values and principles established by previous generations of leaders while also striving to leave your mark and pave the way for those who will follow. You choose the impact that you want to have. Participating in a leadership program for four years has a profound impact on students, including myself, shaping character, building skills, and fostering personal growth.

Through opportunities to lead, collaborate, and serve others, students develop essential leadership qualities such as communication, empathy, resilience, and integrity. They learn to navigate challenges, overcome obstacles, and inspire positive change within themselves and their peers. This transformative journey instills a sense of confidence, purpose, and self-awareness that extends far beyond their high school years.

Throughout these high school years, leaders begin to gain knowledge on what it is that is truly valued to them. For some, it's having a positive impact. For others, it's creating change.

Regardless of what it is, that value is the fuel in their drive to leave a legacy. Moreover, the experience of being a leader on campus offers students a platform to amplify their voices, support causes they are passionate about, and make meaningful contributions to their school community. It provides a ground for innovation, creativity, and collaboration, where students can utilize their unique talents and perspectives to address pressing issues and effect positive change. By organizing events, initiating projects, and fostering a culture of inclusivity and respect, student leaders cultivate an environment where everyone feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive.

The journey of being a leader in a high school leadership program is both transformational and empowering. It equips students with the skills, mindset, and confidence to navigate the challenges of the future with resilience and purpose while leaving an enduring legacy of inspiration, service, and leadership for generations to come.

# THE ELLIES

## KIMBERLI HECK

Student Leadership Advisor  
Churchill Hill Middle School, San Juan School District  
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Imagine if you will, a warm spring evening, a red carpet, punch fountains sparkling with fruit juice, pretty dresses and fancy suits...and a limo. Sprinkle in about 500 students and families, and you've stumbled into THE event of the year on campus...The Ellies.

The Ellies are an Oscar-esque glam event that highlights the achievements of our school electives. This event invites students from drama, band, art, ed tech and yes, even student leadership, to celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of student work. Categories are designed by each content teacher and focus on student character, talent, and perseverance. Some content areas also incorporate a peer voting process for awards that range from community building, sharing information, or creative skill.

Teachers curate a list of award recipients and invite their students to the event. However, all students in the elective classes are encouraged to attend. The key is that the winners are not aware of what award they are getting until the "Oscar" moment when it's announced live at the event. Trophies are ordered and each elective category has a specific trophy designed for its content: i.e. theater masks for theater arts, a paint pallet for art, a computer for ed-tech, etc. Names are collected by the organizing teacher weeks prior to the event and each trophy is personalized.



As with any large event, lots of pre-work and organization takes place beginning in January. The elective teachers form committees and call on the support of parents. When the event first started, all new decorations needed to be ordered. White Christmas lights are used to line the red carpet in the

gymnasium. Homemade stanchions were made to drape the lights (and a bonus, can be used year to year). Hollywood-type decorations were purchased but have been stored and reused each year. Items like the red carpet, punch fountains and red-rope stanchions are secured through a local rental establishment. Letters are written and shared between teachers and their parent community for monetary donations or even decorations. A light dessert buffet is served, and napkins and cups...and gallons of punch are needed!

But the highlight of the evening is the LIMO ride...in the school parking lot! Funds for the limo are secured either by a parent donation or PTO funding. The key is informing the limo company that the driver will be circling the school parking lot...for about 2 hours! Our school site has an upper and lower parking lot. Students are dropped off at the upper parking lot, and are then managed by a teacher volunteer who monitors the loading of student groups into the limo. The limo then drives to the lower



parking lot by the gymnasium and when they exit the limo... here's the fun part...teachers on staff have volunteered to be paparazzi! Right down to the badges they wear and the cameras around their neck. It is HILARIOUS...paparazzi are screaming at the kids, "What are you wearing? Who are you with?" The students stop and pose for photographs at a backdrop just like any celebrity at an awards show. We have created a gallery area for parents to gather so that they may also capture memories of their child walking the red carpet in all their glory.

Over time, we have added little pieces to the event, such as an art gallery outside the gymnasium highlighting student work. Tables have been added outside to display other items from any of the elective classes. This allows parents and the community to view the tremendous work our students have created.

Once inside, the students are welcomed by a formal red carpet down the middle of the gymnasium, flanked on the sides by tables decorated with tablecloths, balloons and other decorations. Parents volunteer to decorate the area so as to keep it a surprise for the students. The theme is always "Hollywood Glam," but we add different props and decorations each year. The punch fountains are streaming cold refreshments and parent volunteers are monitoring the dessert buffet. We have found that with the invitations to the event, it is easy to ask each family to contribute to the dessert buffet with either a monetary donation or an actual dessert item.

And then the gala begins! Each elective teacher has their turn at the podium to formally announce each award and each winner is then directed to walk up the red carpet amongst all the applause and receive their award. There is a perfect moment at the stage where the student can be photographed with their teacher or other students. We haven't added in student speeches, just to keep the evening moving. This might be something to consider in the future. Overall, from start to finish, the event is about 2 hours long, including the limo ride.

# CERTIFIED AT THE SPIRIT GAMES! CONGRATULATIONS 2024 CADA MASTER ACTIVITY ADVISORS

## JEFF CULVER

CADA Professional Development Coordinator  
[jculver@cadaboard.org](mailto:jculver@cadaboard.org)

CADA's 2024 Master Activity Advisor (MAA) program graduates were recognized on stage on Friday, March 8 during the CADA Spirit Games Convention. Thank you to Jostens for once again providing our program graduates a beautiful CADA/CASL diploma cover.

After starting the program with Foundations for Student Activities, these CADA members completed a focused course of study in areas of finance & law, communication, organization, curriculum development, personal leadership, and culture & climate. And finally, each graduate has completed a field study/project to improve student leadership and activities on their campus or in their district.

This year's MAA graduates developed final projects titled: A Sense of Belonging, A-G Application for SSFUSD Leadership course, Bronco PRIDE Redux, Building Culture From the Ground Up, Campus Culture Toolkit and Instructional manual, Club/Organization Refresh, Club Participation, Creating Connections on Campus, Elementary, Activities Programs, Junior Leadership, Large Freshman Cohort Pilot, Leadership Class Proposal and Curriculum Development, More Participation, More Fun, Student Leadership Summit, What exactly does ASB do?

### 2024 MAA Graduates

Congratulations to this year's MAA graduates recognized at "CADA 2024: CADA Spirit Games":



**Beth Barrow** - Area C, Terronez Middle School, **Suzanne Colvin** - Area B, Presentation High School, **Lorena Dayton** - Area F, Magnolia High School, **Angela Dizon** - Area A, Excelsior Middle School, **Cathy Fong** - Area F, Oxford Academy, **Kristin Grimm** - Area H, Secondary Student Athletics and Activities, **Melissa Kromas** - Area F, Banning High School, **Jessi Lindell** - Area A, Excelsior Middle School, **Bethany Munoz** - Area F, Ethel Kucera Middle School, **Christopher Nichols**, Area B, Taylor Middle School, **Jana Remington** - Area F, Canyon Springs High School, **Tiffanie Salazar** - Area F, Riverside Preparatory Middle School, **Shari Scott-Sawyer** - Area F, Villa Park High School, **Doug Wager** - Area F, Anaheim High School, **Elizabeth White** - Area F, Larrea Middle School.

CADA members interested in earning the MAA certificate should register for the MAA 101-Foundations for Student Activities course at the 2024 State Convention in Reno. For more information about the MAA program, please visit [cada1.org/certification](http://cada1.org/certification).

# SANTA CRUZ BEACH BOARDWALK

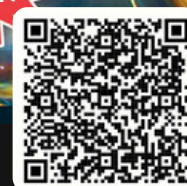
# GRAD PARTIES

MAY 31, JUNE 6, JUNE 7, 2024  
10PM-2AM

### PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Exclusive Rides
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- DJ Dance Party & Karaoke
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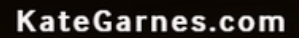
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CADA gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our corporate Medallion Sponsors. Their generosity is essential in helping the CADA organization provide useful, high-quality services to CADA Members and all the students of California. Please show your support by using their products and services.

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**2024-2025  
CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS**

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# 2024

<b>July 7-10, 2024</b>	Summer Leadership Camps I - UC Santa Barbara (SOLD OUT)
<b>July 12-15, 2024</b>	Summer Leadership Camps II - UC Santa Barbara
<b>July 17-20, 2024</b>	Summer Leadership Camps III - UC Santa Barbara (SOLD OUT)
<b>July 22-25, 2024</b>	Summer Leadership Camps IV - UC Santa Barbara
<b>Aug 24, 2024</b>	Pasadena Advisor Conference hosted by Area E - Pasadena, CA
<b>Sept 11, 2024</b>	Temecula Area Advisor Conference hosted by Area F
<b>Sept 16, 2024</b>	Escondido High School Conference hosted by Area G
<b>Oct 1, 2024</b>	High School Student Conference in Woodland hosted by Area A
<b>Oct 2, 2024</b>	Middle School Student Conference in Woodland hosted by Area A
<b>Oct 7, 2024</b>	Inland Empire Middle School Conference hosted by Area F
<b>Oct 7, 2024</b>	Student Conference in Madera hosted by Area C
<b>Oct 15, 2024</b>	Student Conference in Pasadena hosted by Area E
<b>Nov 2, 2024</b>	Advisor Conference in Sacramento Area hosted by Area A
<b>Nov 4, 2024</b>	Disneyland High School Conference hosted by Area F
<b>Nov 4, 2024</b>	Salinas Student Conference hosted by Area D
<b>Nov 7, 2024</b>	Oxnard Student Conference hosted by Area D
<b>Nov 14, 2024</b>	San Diego Area Advisor Conference hosted by Area G
<b>Nov 25, 2024</b>	Union City Student Conference hosted by Area B
<b>Dec 3, 2024</b>	Adult Conference at Clovis Rodeo Grounds hosted by Area C

# 2025

<b>Jan 27, 2025</b>	San Diego Area Middle School Student Conference hosted by Area G
<b>Feb 26 - March 1, 2025</b>	2025 CADA Convention - San Diego, CA
<b>April 10 - 12, 2025</b>	CASL MS Student Conference - Santa Clara, CA
<b>April 12-14, 2025</b>	CASL HS Student Conference - Santa Clara, CA

## LDDs

CADA also offers **Leadership Development Days** throughout the state. LDDs utilize experiential learning activities to unite students and develop lifelong skills. You can host one at your school or attend one near you! To learn more visit [www.cada1.org/ldd](http://www.cada1.org/ldd)