The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of May 15, 2014:

Save Our Shores
I met with Laura Kasa, Executive Director/Save Our Shores, to discuss their acquiring a Grant and coordinating the county’s Green School Program. Their goal is to align their work more with “Common Core” and continuing to be a resource to our teachers. The mission of Save Our Shores is caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy, and citizen action.

CCSESA Board of Directors
I attended the Board of Directors meeting in Sacramento to discuss the Governor’s May Budget Revision, the lack of Common Core Implementation funds; discussion concentrating on early education proposals; CalSTRS; update from the CDE on LCAP submittals for approval; recent developments regarding the issue of Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) funding; approved a recommendation by the Personnel Administrative Services Steering Committee (PASSCO) to express concerns about the 20-day limitation for Special Education with regard to substitute permits. Executive Director, Peter Birdsall, reported that CCSESA approved entering into a Contract extension with the San Joaquin County Superintendent for the operation of EdJoin for 2015-16 and 2016-17; in the coming months, CCSESA will work with legal counsel and the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) to update the Statutory Functions of County Superintendents manual, which will be a central piece of the new superintendent training, currently scheduled for September of this year; approval by the Board, that there will be an annual review of the CalPERS trust during the October General Membership meetings, and that an Actuarial Study of the Trust will occur every two years; approved the creation of a new CCSESA core staff position.

Inside Education
“Science Comes Alive in the Redwoods” was the theme for the May Inside Education Program. Participants gathered at the COE where they received an overview of our Outdoor Education Program. In addition, Amity Sandage, CREEC Region 5 Coordinator, presented, “The CREEC Network: A One Stop Source for Environmental Education Resources”. Participants then visited Koinonia Conference Grounds in Corralitos to visit our Outdoor Education School and attended Field Study Classes with the students, in addition to having lunch with students and staff.

Post-Secondary Services for Special Education
I hosted a meeting between Peter McLean, Javier Zaldivir, Oscar Torres, Harriet Maglin/SELPA Director, and Dorothy Raab/Special Ed, Director to discuss new and better ways to coordinate information and address coordination of services, particularly in Santa Cruz County, for the growing population of those dealing with autism and to work together with a variety of local and governmental agencies.
Math Awards
The Math Awards were held in the COE Tech Center on May 20th. The Math Contest provides students in grades 5-8 with both a team competition and an individual test format. The team competition requires students work together using problem-solving strategies, showing work and providing clear and detailed explanations. The individual test for all grade levels uses a free response format. The 8th grade test includes questions that reflect state requirements for 8th grade Algebra. Students receive certificates of participation and contest winners receive achievement medals. The Event was well-attended.

Keith Brant Reception
I was invited by UC Chancellor, George Blumenthal to attend a Reception welcoming new Vice Chancellor of University Relations, Keith Brant of UC Santa Cruz at the Museum of Art and History Atrium.

Stuart Foundation, The Invisible Achievement Gap, Part II
I attended this meeting in Sacramento which was held to discuss Key Findings and receive a Final Report. The Invisible Achievement Gap is a groundbreaking study based on a data match between state agencies. Together, these reports offer the first statewide comprehensive educational snap-shot of all K-12 students in foster care, demonstrating their unique characteristics as a distinct population of students and further illustrating the need for policies and strategies that improve their academic success. These reports, based on data from the 2009/2010 school year, are the result of a state level collaboration that began nearly three years ago, originating from a commitment to work together to link state level data sets. The study is a bold and proactive effort by the California Departments of Education and Social Services, reflecting their commitment to use data to better understand the educational outcomes for students in foster care.

High School Poetry Reading
The 21st Annual Santa Cruz County High School Poetry Competition Reading and Awards Ceremony and Celebration of the Publication of the Anthology was held in our Tech Center and recorded by Santa Cruz County Community Television. Mary Anne James, our Associate Superintendent/Ed Services, made the introductions on my behalf. Each year Poetry Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education present the Santa Cruz County High School Poetry Competition in which high school students in the county are invited to submit up to three poems. This year, 360 poems were submitted and three judges selected three prize winners whose authors receive cash awards, seven Honorable mention poems and a total of 51 poems to be published in the annual anthology. As well, art work from Soquel High School and Santa Cruz High School students provided a wonderful backdrop to the Event.

S4C (Santa Cruz County College Commitment)
I have been hosting multiple meetings between Laurel Jones, Superintendent/President of Cabrillo, and district superintendents to discuss how best to maintain the S4C Program. The goal of S4C is to improve career and college readiness and completion for students in Santa Cruz County, so that every student succeeds. S4C is a collaboration among every public education entity serving Santa Cruz County. It was decided that the COE will house and support S4C effective July 1, 2014.

SV/SCNTP Colloquium
There were three SV/SCNTP Colloquiums held - one in north Santa Cruz county, one in south Santa Cruz county and one in north Monterey county, where they focused on sharing their *Inquiry* (to Assess, Plan, Teach, Analyze, and Reflect), as well as discussing their impacts on student learning.

**Budget Workshop**
I attended the May Revision of the Governor’s proposed 2014-15 Budget, which was presented by Capitol Advisors, here at the SCCOE. Presenters included ACSA, CSBA and SSDA in addition to the Capitol Advisors team. Many financial and economic factors were discussed including LCFF, LCAP, Common Core, Mandatory Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten, Teacher Dismissal, Transportation funding, 2014 School Bond, and Independent Study Reform. It was well attended by COE and district staff.

**Professor Bruce McFadden**
I attended a meeting with University of Florida Professor, Bruce McFadden and SCCOE Coordinator, Jason Tovani to discuss “Hands on Science”, a project of collaboration between University of Florida, Santa Cruz County and Science Technology Engineering Math Curricula (STEM).

**Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County**
I attended this working meeting with leaders from public and private employment sectors. The meeting was based on a series of public dialogues and interviews with community leaders over the last two years. It was determined that educational success and economic vitality are major issues of concern throughout Santa Cruz County. Santa Cruz County’s Community Foundation Board of Directors has agreed to focus resources on enhancing academic achievement and preparing young adults for employment, career technical education, or higher education.

**Pacific Collegiate Charter School Graduation**
I attended the graduation ceremony and gave a brief welcome address which touched on the importance of a high quality education and the unparalleled success of their school.

**Pacific Elementary Board Member Meeting**
I met with Pacific Elementary School Board President, Gwyan Rhabyt, to discuss the resignation of Superintendent/Principal, Eric Bitter and the process of determining his replacement.

**KCSO Radio**
I participated in a live radio interview with Michael Olson, General Manager of KSCO, to discuss the purpose and importance of the movie, “Fed Up”, which the SCCOE sponsored at the Nickelodeon.

**SLV Superintendent’s Retirement**
I attended Superintendent, Julie Haff’s Retirement Event at Seascape Golf Club. It was very well-attended with countless accolades of recognition for her 36 years of service to San Lorenzo Valley School District – the last 12 years as Superintendent.

**Adult Ed AB 86**
I attended a meeting to discuss AB 86 and the Adult Education Consortium process. Existing law establishes procedures and reimbursement provisions for the attendance of apprentices at high schools, unified school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, community colleges, and adult schools under vocational education programs standards that are established with the participation of the State Department of Education, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the Department of Industrial Relations. This bill would revise the role of the State Department of Education in these programs, and would, among other things, establish standards for the provision of state funding and reimbursements for these programs at high schools, unified school districts, regional occupational centers or programs, and adult schools separate from these programs at community colleges. The bill would require, by March 15, 2014, the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges and the Division of Apprenticeship Standards of the Department of Industrial Relations, with equal participation by specified entities, to develop common administrative practices and treatment of costs and services, as well as other policies related to apprenticeship programs.

**SCCOE Program Meetings**
Bryan Wall, Mary Hart, Mary Anne James and I have been meeting with all SCCOE Program Managers, to discuss budgets and staffing for the 2014-15 fiscal year. The purpose was to discuss any potential cost-saving measures that the COE can undertake as a result of the new LCFF.

**“MINDDRIVE” Electric Vehicle Event**
I was invited to attend this event at the Santa Cruz Wharf, which was hosted by the City of Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance. To raise awareness for experiential education programs, MINDDRIVE students built an electric car that converts social media into social fuel for a road trip from Kansas City, MO. to Washington D.C., where they hope to drive change in education. MINDDRIVE students and mentors displayed and discussed their restored electric versions of the 1967 VW Karmann Ghia, as well as displays of electric vehicles by local owners.

**Conflict Resolution Meeting**
I attended this meeting for the purpose of assisting the Conflict Resolution Center develop a stronger Board of Directors by helping identify people who bring skills, backgrounds, and other attributes needed to lead and sustain the organization.

**Fed Up**
The COE sponsored showing “Fed Up”, a movie produced by Laurie David, who also produced “An Inconvenient Truth”, and Katie Couric, at the local Nickelodeon Theater. Carole Mulford, SCCOE Manager/CDP, was instrumental in bringing it to the Nickelodeon. Due to the local obesity epidemic among Santa Cruz County’s children, we felt it was an opportunity to bring attention to how sugar is incorporated into processed food and drinks. The film explained how, since the U.S. Government issued its first dietary guidelines 30 years ago, the rate of obesity has skyrocketed. It was well-attended with the theater near capacity. Robert Lustig, MD was our special guest.

**Pajaro Valley High School and Watsonville High School Graduations**
I was invited to attend both of these graduations and assisted in handing out diplomas.
Soquel School District Retirees
I was invited to attend a special gathering of Soquel School District Retirees at Michael’s on Main. Two of the four Retirees were former employees of the SCCOE. It was well-attended and the Retirees were grateful for the accolades.

Resilient Federal Grant
I met with representatives of the National Laboratory for Education Transformation (NLET) and Dave Barnett, SCCOE Director/Technology-Infrastructure, to discuss findings from the Pajaro pilot; the potential scale up of verification and security solutions; and the badging and verification program in Santa Cruz County. The University of California at Santa Cruz and NLET have partnered with the National Science Foundation and regional advisors in a planning grant to host convening’s in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties with the purpose of addressing the most pressing education and human resource issues facing Silicon Valley and the nation.

Alternative Education Graduations
I attended the SOS, Louden-Nelson/Wagner, Ponderosa/Highlands, Camp/Yes and Watsonville Community/Success graduations. All of the Alternative Education graduations were inspirational and well-attended. I commend all of the Alt Ed staff for their hard work throughout the year to assist these young adults as they complete this important phase of their educational goals.

Special Education Graduation
This very special graduation, which was held in our Tech Center, was at full capacity with graduates, their families, current and prior teachers, aides and administrators. All of the graduates were obviously very happy and proud. A few of them spoke and although very nervous, managed to effectively express their heart-felt gratitude to their families and teachers.

CCSESA Executive Committee
I participated in a conference call to discuss CCSESA’s Audit Committee and their duties; the Awards Committee; statutory document review; new Superintendent’s Orientation; MAA; a Presentation at State Board of Education September meeting regarding the first year experience with LCAPs; elimination of COE Programs.

JM Brown Interview
Bryan Wall and I recently met with JM Brown, Santa Cruz Sentinel, to discuss a Feature Article on the career of Deputy Superintendent, Bryan Wall and his upcoming retirement.

Community Foundation
I attended this meeting to discuss the issue of underprepared youth in our community. The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz is initiating a multi-year commitment being called, “JumpStart Santa Cruz”. Given local government’s commitment to economic development, Community Foundation Santa Cruz County’s Board of Directors has agreed to focus resources on enhancing academic achievement and preparing young adults for employment, career technical education, or higher education. In 2014, they will invest at least $150,000 in programs that have a track record of preparing young adults for work or higher education and refine a scope of activity that will make a discernible difference in the future of the county’s residents and economy. The goals now will be to: finalize their concept and focus; identify other partners they need to engage; develop a structure to take the work forward.
ROP Meeting w/PVUSD
I initiated a meeting between PVUSD Superintendent, Dorma Baker, Murry Schekman, Assistant Superintendent/Secondary & Alterative Education, Bryan Wall, Mark Hodges, Jim Howes and I, to discuss the future of Regional Occupation Programs in Santa Cruz County. We are looking at developing an MOU that would eventually transfer the costs of ROP operations to our local school districts.

Gary Bloom and Julie Haff’s Retirement
I attended a combined retirement celebration held at Michael’s On Main on behalf of retiring Santa Cruz City Schools Superintendent, Gary Bloom and San Lorenzo Valley Superintendent, Julie Haff. It was well-attended and a nice celebration of two valuable Administrators.

Regular Monthly Meetings
Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
Migrant Head Start Videoconference                  Children’s Network
Criminal Justice Council                            S4C Steering Committee
CCSESA Executive Board                              CCSESA Board of Directors
CCSESA Agenda Committee                             Manager’s Meeting