Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
August 15, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of July 18, 2013:

**Summer Arts Institute**
After the great success we had over the last two years with a Summer Arts Institute and the desire by attendees to continue the program, we held another institute June 24th – June 28th at Harbor High. The areas covered included all forms of art from hands on to preforming. Evaluations showed a great appreciation for all aspects of the classes.

**Turning the Curve on Youth Violence: Acting on What Works**
The Criminal Justice Council in conjunction with the County Office of Education, the court system, and various law enforcement agencies is sponsoring a conference this Friday at the Coconut Grove. I have assisted with the planning and will be hosting the event along with Rudy Escalante. Former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin will be speaking along with Judge Heather Morse, Jenny Sarmiento of PVPSA, Francis Guzman, National Center for Youth Law, and other authorities on issues affecting our youth.

**Managers Retreat**
The managers met for their annual back-to-school retreat yesterday. Agenda items included qualities of an effective leader, ‘How Successful People Think,’ promoting COE programs and services, Local Control Funding Formula and budget update.

**NLET & Gooru**
Gordon Freedman, Executive Director, NLET, Prasad Ram, CEO, Gooru, and I are meeting with Tom Torlakson in September to discuss ways to improve educational outcomes utilizing Gooru’s technology with the support of the California Department of Education.

**Project Zero Classroom at Harvard School of Education**
The week finally arrived to join a team of educators at a weeklong Project Zero Classroom Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education. It was an exciting time to connect with educators from across the country to explore knowledge, tools, strategies and relationships to lead for a creative and responsive teaching and learning system that will support the success of each and every child in school, career and citizenship. I was able to have personal discussions with Harvard education professors and leading education authorities Howard Gardner, David Perkins, Ron Ritchhart, Lois Hetland, and Ellen Winner. Wednesday, August 14th, I met with County Superintendent Sheila Jordan, Diana Cohn, Panta Rhea Foundation and others to discuss possible funding that would allow for implementation of Integrated Learning Institute in Northern California schools. On Thursday morning, I participated in a Plenary Session at the Integrated Learning Summer Institute – Inventing Our Future.
ROP Orientation
I will be welcoming back the Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) staff at their orientation meeting. I will also be leading a discussion on the future of ROP programs under the new Local Control Funding Formula.

Region V Discussion Regarding RSDSS (Regional System of District and School Support)
A conference call was held with San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Clara County Offices of Education to discuss collaborations around RSDSS and the transfer of LEA from Santa Clara County Office of Education to Monterey County Office of Education. That transfer will take place in the 2014 school year.

Migrant Education Subcommittee
I was asked to join the State Migrant Education Subcommittee as they discussed how to restructure the format and process of the migrant education regional directors meetings to strengthen the working relationships and communications between regions and the California Department of Education.

PAC 6 Conference
Mary Hart, Mary Anne James and I attended the PAC 6 Conference in Northern California. Administrators from county offices in Mendocino County, Humboldt County, Marin County, Lake County, Del Norte County, Napa County, Yolo County, Ventura County, Contra Costa, Sonoma County, and our county met with each other and a number of leaders in education and education issues. Among those others attending were: Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent; Peter Birdsall, CCSESA; Margaret Merchat, School and College Legal Services; John Gray, School Services of California.

Debrief with Tom Torlakson’s Office
After spending the day with Michael Fullan, Ben Levin and Tom Torlakson in June, I will be participating in a debrief of the day’s meetings.

Oceanseed Project
I met with Dominic Renda to hear about his program Oceanseed Project. The program provides evidenced based, community focused programs to transform the lives of at-risk youth and our world by providing access to oceans, beaches, estuaries and watersheds accompanied with ongoing mentorship and student-centered curriculum in the humanities and science that fulfill contemporary educational standards. Through their ongoing, direct experience, Oceanseed Project participants discover and develop profound individual connections to new skills, values and our natural world that provide a vast array of lasting possibilities.

The Panama Connection
I participated in an online meeting with Jason Tovani, Gary Bloom, Rob Hoffman, and Bruce McFadden of The Panama Connection to receive more information on this program that takes undergraduate students in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) during the summer months to spend 1 week in Panama for geological and paleontological field work, a week in field work in Florida, and up to 8 weeks of work in a museum/lab during the summer. These are undergraduates who plan to enter the field of education. Mr. McFadden is also working on a project with the National Science Foundation entitled the Integrated Technology for Students and Teachers. It would upgrade technology countywide and have students digitize research specimens for/with scientists thereby learning STEM content and skills firsthand.
**Shakespeare Santa Cruz**
On Saturday, August 17th, I will be the guest announcer at Shakespeare Santa Cruz. It will be my job to welcome the audience, thank the sponsors and make any necessary announcements.

**Laurel Jones, Ed.D., President, Cabrillo College**
I met with Dr. Laurel Jones the new president of Cabrillo College to welcome her to the county and discuss ways in which we have collaborated in the past and to explore ideas that she had used in her previous community college. She dropped in to our Administrators Kick Off and was introduced to the attendees.

**Poetry Workshop – Santa Cruz County Jail**
At the invitation of Dennis Morton, I visited his Poetry Workshop/Class at the County Jail facility. Mr. Morton works with inmates to give them the opportunity to learn to express themselves through the written word.

**Administrators Kick Off**
Approximately one hundred fifty administrators from schools, district offices joined our managers for the annual kick off at the Seascape Resort. After a general session, participants were divided up by job alike groups from elementary principals to superintendents, CBO’s, and secondary principals. The agenda was divided up into sessions for different level administrators: elementary, middle school, and high schools and a special session for CBO’s. The elementary sessions emphasized math and reading; middle schools looked at writing, technology, and common core; high schools focused on literacy design collaborative, writing, and technology integration.

**Branciforte Middle School Innovation Center**
This is an excerpt from an email that I received from Wendy Thompson, committee co-chair for the Branciforte Middle School Innovation Center:

*Let me begin by thanking you for your support of the Digital Media Trainings for teachers throughout Santa Cruz County. I was one of those teachers who attended last year who greatly benefited from the program. With Robin Macomber's help from the Digital Media Factory, our 8th graders at Branciforte gained access to movie making in all of its aspects, from pre-production (storyboarding) through post production (editing). We showcased these movies in our annual Best of the West night where over 500 family and community members watched and appreciated the student made films.*

*I know that this has been a vision for you personally and why the generous program gifts of a macbook air and 2 video cams for teacher teams have been possible. Our school has chosen to take this vision and make it a priority at our site and so we are in the process of totally revamping our defunct Metal Shop into a technology rich Innovation Center. We know that this is a crucial step for our school and our community.*

I met with the Middle School Technology Committee to discuss their ongoing plans and possible avenues for continued funding to further the program. The Digital Media Training provided by our office proved both inspirational and highly effective and they would like us to continue that effort.
**Pajaro Valley Middle School Algebra**
Through Jason Borgen, we received a thank you from Pajaro Valley Middle School where we supported and trained for 1:1 iPad implementation, use of the HMH FUSE Algebra interactive textbook and Web 2.0 tools on the iPad. The teacher received professional development from both PVUSD and our offices. Students’ Algebras scores improved dramatically from 2012 to 2013 – see table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students Tested</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>% of Enrollment</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students with scores</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mean Scale Score</td>
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<tr>
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<td>36%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Far Below Basic</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We are pleased to see how our efforts to support students and teachers have brought about this great improvement in just one year.

**Harvey Milk Champions of Change Award – John Laird**
John Laird was one of ten people across the United States honored for his leadership and strong commitment to both equality for all and his public service. I was able to attend the local celebration for Mr. Laird who is currently serving as the California Secretary of Natural Resources.

**Let’s Talk with Lou Tuosto**
Along with Laurel Jones, president, Cabrillo College, I participated in the Let’s Talk program on Community Television hosted by Lou Tuosto. In a Back to School addition of his program, we discussed contemporary education issues & solutions.

**Monthly Meetings**
**CCSESA Executive Board**

**CCSESA Board of Directors**

**Upcoming Events:**
**CCBE Fall Conference:** September 27-29, Hyatt Regency, Monterey, CA (contact Cindy)
**Orientation Day:** Monday, August 26th, 8:30 a.m., SCCOE Office, 400 Encinal Street
**Annual CSBA Conference:** December 5-7, San Diego Marriott, San Diego (early registration by August 6th – contact Cindy)