



CCSESA Leadership Link

VOLUME III, ISSUE VII

SEPTEMBER 2009

Executive Director's Corner

Greetings –

Fall is only a few weeks away and I'm sure that school is in full swing in all of your communities. I hope that your school leaders have been able to successfully navigate the perils of state budget cuts and provide the best educational opportunities possible for their students. In Sacramento, autumn usually signals the end of the legislative session; however, the Governor has called a special session on education reform, scheduled to run through October 5. The main purpose of the session is to enact legislation to enable California to successfully compete for federal funding under the Race to the Top initiative. Please see Mike Ricketts' article on page 2 for more information on the legislative package under consideration in the special session.

PTA Provides Effective Public Service Announcements (PSAs). To kick off the back-to-school season, the California PTA has produced a series of high quality PSAs to encourage strong parental involvement in public schools. The PSAs can be viewed and downloaded from www.parentsknowtheanswer.org. The PTA has requested that each county superintendent consider posting one or more of the PSAs to their county websites and to encourage all school district superintendents to post to their district websites.

Leadership Spotlight: Dr. Lisa Fontana, Alpine County Superintendent

Dr. Lisa Fontana is the new Superintendent of Schools in Alpine County. She is a long-time resident of Alpine and even taught kindergarten there 26 years ago. Lisa also worked in the state of Nevada for many years as a teacher, staff developer, curriculum analyst, adjunct professor, and director of curriculum and instruction and Title III programs. She helped develop statewide standards, assessments, school and district improvement plans and observation tools for effective instructional practices. Upon her return to the combined Alpine County Office of Education and Unified School District, Lisa directed instructional services as assistant superintendent. She assumed the County Superintendent role upon Jim Parsons' retirement in June.

Alpine County's educational programs are varied and

unique. As County Superintendent, Lisa oversees a beautiful infant and pre-school facility and an Opportunity School. As District Superintendent, she enjoys visiting the one-room, necessary small high school nestled among the pines in the ski resort community of Bear Valley. Students on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains attend a K-8 school, community day school or necessary small high school. Most Alpine County students attend a comprehensive high school in Douglas County, Nevada after graduating from 8th grade. County Office of Education transports the students across state lines according to a hundred-year old agreement between the counties.

Lisa earned her Master's Degree in Secondary Literacy and Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leader-



ship from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her undergraduate studies and initial credentialing were completed at California State University, Sacramento.

Lisa and her family enjoy many outdoor activities in their Alpine County home.

Welcome Lisa, we look forward to working with you!

California Forward Proposes 2010 Reform Plan

California Forward is a foundation-funded initiative with a mission to create more responsive, representative and cost-effective government. The bipartisan effort is co-chaired by Bob Hertzberg, former Assembly Speaker and Tom McKernan, CEO of the Automobile Club of Southern California. According to their website their goal is "fundamental change: government that's small enough to listen, big enough to tackle real problems, smart enough to spend our money wisely in good times and bad, and honest enough to be held accountable for results." To

that end, they have recently released the *2010 Reform Plan*, which includes proposed ballot initiatives which would, among other provisions, require two-year state budgets to be adopted by majority vote and additional local revenue-raising options, which would require closer coordination among all local agencies. Executive Director Jim Mayer will join us at the October Quarterly Meeting to provide a complete overview of their recommendations. For more information, visit www.caforward.org.