

For Immediate Release

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Jara announces new leadership team to oversee teaching and learning

Region superintendents and school associate superintendents will oversee implementation of new strategic plan

LAS VEGAS - Clark County School District (CCSD) Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara announced the new leadership team in charge of Teaching and Learning, who will lead the implementation of the district's ambitious five-year strategic plan.

"Today is a great day for the children of the Clark County School District," Jara said. "I am excited to announce the new Teaching and Learning Division – a group of leaders with a proven track record of increasing academic achievement among all students they serve."

During a news conference, Dr. Jara discussed the roles of the three new region superintendents and six new school associate superintendents, who will assist the region superintendents in supervising CCSD's 360 schools.

The three new region superintendents are CCSD School Associate Superintendent **Grant Hanevold**, CCSD Franchise Principal **Debbie Brockett** and **Dr. Karla Loria**, who is currently serving as the human capital officer and student support officer at Harrison School District Two in Colorado.

Hanevold's region, Region 1, serves most of North Las Vegas, Indian Springs, Mt. Charleston, Moapa Valley and Mesquite. The school associate superintendents in Region 1 are:

Alaina Criner, current principal at Matt Kelly Elementary School, who has led her school to a 14 percent increase in English language arts proficiency in grades 3-5 since 2016, and a 5.6 percent increase in math proficiency in grades 3-5, also since 2016. The school has seen gains in English Language Learners meeting adequate growth, and the school increased its index points earned on the Nevada School Performance Framework by 17 points in 2017-18.

Ann Hembrook, currently principal at Odyssey Middle School in Orlando, Fla., also served as director of professional development and teacher evaluations. Hembrook is currently one of eight people accepted in the National Urban Special Education Leadership Initiative. She participated as one of 15 school principals to implement Latinos in Action in Orlando, and she was awarded Principal of the Year for the arts. She has also spent time training and preparing new principals. Hembrook brought her school up to A level – the equivalent of 5 stars in Nevada. Her school had one of the top five highest gains in the district in 8th-grade math.

Region 2 will be led by Brockett. She currently serves as a franchise principal at Las Vegas High School and Duane D. Keller Middle School. Her region will serve Summerlin, the southwest valley, and some of east Las Vegas, as well as Blue Diamond, Goodsprings and Sandy Valley. The school associate superintendents are:

Dr. Samuel Scavella, currently the principal at Glenville High School, in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, where he has led an 8.1 percent increase in the graduation rate, and increases in English Language Arts, algebra, American history and American government. Dr. Scavella served as a mentor and coach for Cleveland's Aspiring Principal Program and a coach for the BRIGHT New Leader for Ohio Schools Program to train leaders for placement as turnaround leaders in high-poverty public schools struggling with low achievement. He has also served as a principal in Atlanta and Broward County.

Lorna James-Cervantes, a current school associate superintendent who is a longtime CCSD educator and is bilingual. Six elementary schools she supervises demonstrated a gain of one star on the School Performance Framework, and two were removed from the Achievement School District in 2018. As principal at Park Elementary School, she raised proficiency from 40 percent in English Language Arts to 66 percent, and in math from 46 percent to 70 percent.

Region 3 will be led by Dr. Loria. It will serve East Las Vegas, Henderson, Boulder City, Searchlight and Laughlin. The school associate superintendents are:

Jill Pendleton, current principal at Clark High School, which consistently wins local and national recognition. Pendleton was the Nevada state Principal of the Year for secondary schools in 2017. She was Principal of the Year for Magnet Schools of America in 2014, and she serves as President of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association state board of control. Under Pendleton's leadership, Clark has increased its graduation rate from 57 percent in 2009 to 90 percent for the Class of 2018. This includes significant increases in graduation rates among black/African-American, Hispanic, special education and economically disadvantaged students. She also expanded her Advanced Placement program over a decade, resulting in participation increases from 1,111 exams taken in 2009 to 1,846 exams taken last year, with a pass rate increase from 24 percent in 2010 to 78 percent in 2018.

Dr. Dustin Mancl, current principal at Lewis E. Rowe Elementary School, who also has extensive experience throughout CCSD, and earned his doctorate in special education. Dr. Mancl has an endorsement in mentor training and certification from the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and he has completed extensive work in professional development around elementary literacy, collaborative planning and co-teaching, teaching inclusive practices, and developing Individualized Education Programs. He is also a published author in these areas.



Additionally, Dr. Jara announced that longtime CCSD educator Dr. Celese Rayford will serve as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Professional Development and Instruction. Dr. Rayford joins Dr. Deanna Jaskolski, who will serve as associate superintendent for Student Services over special education.

More than two-thirds of this new teaching and learning team are internal candidates. “I know that we have incredible talent throughout the Clark County School District, and I am happy to have identified these successful leaders from within the district,” said Dr. Jara.

“This new team will deliver,” Jara said. “I have asked them to accomplish big goals.”

The Board of School Trustees is scheduled to consider the final version of the draft five-year strategic plan, Focus: 2024, at its Feb. 28 meeting.

The draft plan lays out the following five-year goals to make CCSD #1ForKids and the most improved urban school district in the nation:

- No 1- or 2-Star schools
- A 90 percent graduation rate
- A 100 percent increase in the number of students graduating college or career ready
- A 100 percent increase in participation and performance on Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment, and Career and Technical Education

[CCSD Superintendent Dr. Jesus F. Jara announces final region superintendent – 2/1/19 news release](#)

[Get to know your CCSD region superintendent: Grant Hanevold’s nearly three-decade career has spanned the spectrum of public education – 1/24/19 news release](#)

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